

HOUSE BILL 1110

F1, J1

8lr2227

By: **Delegates Arentz, Adams, Anderton, Beitzel, Brooks, Buckel, Chang, Clark, Clippinger, Cluster, Corderman, Ebersole, Folden, Ghrist, Hettleman, Hornberger, Impallaria, Jacobs, Kipke, Lafferty, R. Lewis, Lierman, Mautz, McDonough, Metzgar, W. Miller, Patterson, Rose, Shoemaker, Tarlau, Vogt, West, and Wilson**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2018

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Schools – Health and Safety Guidelines and Procedures – Digital Devices**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Department of Education, in consultation with the
4 Maryland Department of Health, on or before a certain date, to develop health and
5 safety guidelines and procedures for the use of digital devices in public school
6 classrooms; requiring the State Department of Education, on or before a certain date,
7 to provide the guidelines and procedures to each county board of education for
8 consideration and adoption; requiring a county board that decides not to adopt the
9 guidelines and procedures to provide the State Department of Education an
10 explanation of the basis for the decision; requiring the State Department of
11 Education to convene and consult with a certain workgroup, including
12 representatives of certain entities; requiring the State Department of Education to
13 submit an interim report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a
14 certain date; and generally relating to health and safety guidelines and procedures
15 for the use of digital devices in public schools.

16 BY adding to

17 Article – Education

18 Section 7–441

19 Annotated Code of Maryland

20 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

21 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
22 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

23 **Article – Education**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 7-441.

2 (A) (1) ON OR BEFORE JUNE 1, 2019, THE DEPARTMENT, IN
3 CONSULTATION WITH THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, SHALL DEVELOP
4 HEALTH AND SAFETY GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE USE OF DIGITAL
5 DEVICES IN PUBLIC SCHOOL CLASSROOMS.

6 (2) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2019, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE
7 THE GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES TO EACH COUNTY BOARD FOR CONSIDERATION
8 AND ADOPTION.

9 (B) IF A COUNTY BOARD DECIDES NOT TO ADOPT THE GUIDELINES AND
10 PROCEDURES DEVELOPED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, THE COUNTY
11 BOARD SHALL PROVIDE TO THE DEPARTMENT AN EXPLANATION OF THE BASIS FOR
12 THE DECISION.

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

14 (a) In developing the health and safety guidelines and procedures for the use of
15 digital devices in public school classrooms required under § 7-441 of the Education Article,
16 as enacted by this Act, the State Department of Education shall convene and consult with
17 a workgroup of affected stakeholders, including representatives from:

18 (1) the Maryland State Education Association;

19 (2) the Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland;

20 (3) the Maryland Parent Teacher Association;

21 (4) the Maryland Association of Boards of Education;

22 (5) the Maryland Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics;

23 (6) MedChi, the Maryland State Medical Society;

24 (7) the Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood;

25 (8) Parents Across America;

26 (9) the Environmental Influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO)
27 program of the National Institutes of Health;

28 (10) the Maryland Association of County Health Officers;

29 (11) the Mental Health Association of Maryland;

1 (12) the Maryland Association of School Health Nurses;

2 (13) the occupational safety and health profession;

3 (14) the medical profession; and

4 (15) any other entity with relevant expertise or whose members will be
5 impacted by the guidelines and procedures.

6 (b) On or before December 1, 2018, the Department shall submit an interim
7 report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article,
8 the General Assembly on the development of the guidelines and procedures for the use of
9 digital devices in public school classrooms.

10 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
11 1, 2018.