

Chapter 32

(House Bill 1386)

AN ACT concerning

Public Schools – ~~Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline – Sign~~ Reporting Child Abuse – Telephone Number

FOR the purpose of ~~requiring~~ encouraging public schools to post a certain telephone number conspicuously ~~a sign~~ in a certain area of the school ~~that contains the telephone number of the Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline; requiring a public school to display a certain sign in certain languages; and generally relating to displaying the Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline in public schools; requiring~~ a county board to ensure that a certain telephone number is published in certain student handbooks and on certain websites; and generally relating to reporting child abuse or neglect in public schools.

BY adding to

Article – Education

Section 7-441

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2014 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

Article – Education

7-441.

(A) EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL ~~SHALL~~ IS ENCOURAGED TO POST THE APPROPRIATE TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR REPORTING SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT CONSPICUOUSLY IN A HIGH-TRAFFIC, WIDELY USED AREA OF THE SCHOOL ~~A SIGN THAT CONTAINS THE TELEPHONE NUMBER OF THE CHILDHHELP NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE.~~

~~(B) A PUBLIC SCHOOL SHALL DISPLAY THE SIGN REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION IN ENGLISH AND IN SPANISH.~~

(B) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL ENSURE THAT THE APPROPRIATE TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR REPORTING SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT IS PUBLISHED:

(1) IN EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL’S STUDENT HANDBOOK; AND

(2) ON THE WEBSITE OF THE COUNTY BOARD OR LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2018.

Approved by the Governor, April 10, 2018.