

HOUSE BILL 566

F1

1lr1569

By: **Delegate Long**

Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2021

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **County Boards of Education – Virtual Schools – Requirement**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a county board of education, beginning in a certain school
4 year, in coordination with the State Department of Education, to establish virtual
5 schools to provide students with an alternative to traditional classroom instruction;
6 requiring certain virtual schools to provide instruction to certain students; and
7 generally relating to virtual schools in the State.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
9 Article – Education
10 Section 7–1401 and 7–1403
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article – Education
15 Section 7–1402
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Education**

21 7–1401.

22 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

23 (b) “Sponsor” means the Department or a county school board, having a fiduciary

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 responsibility for the operation of the virtual school.

2 (c) "Virtual school" means a public school established by the Department or by a
3 county board under § 4–109 of this article in which the school uses technology to deliver a
4 significant portion of instruction to its students via the Internet in a virtual or remote
5 setting.

6 7–1402.

7 (a) **(1) [Subject to the approval of the Department] BEGINNING IN THE**
8 **2021–2022 SCHOOL YEAR, a county board [may] SHALL, IN COORDINATION WITH THE**
9 **DEPARTMENT, establish [a] virtual [school] SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH**
10 **AN ALTERNATIVE TO TRADITIONAL CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION.**

11 **(2) THE VIRTUAL SCHOOLS ESTABLISHED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF**
12 **THIS SUBSECTION SHALL PROVIDE INSTRUCTION FOR STUDENTS IN EVERY GRADE**
13 **LEVEL.**

14 (b) A virtual school is subject to all applicable federal and State laws and
15 regulations governing the operation of a public school.

16 (c) A student who is eligible for enrollment in a public school in the State may
17 enroll in a virtual school.

18 7–1403.

19 (a) A virtual school shall provide each enrolled student:

20 (1) Access to a sequential curriculum approved by the State Board that
21 meets or exceeds the standards adopted by the county board in the county of the virtual
22 school's principal place of business;

23 (2) The same length of time for learning opportunities per academic year
24 that is required for public school students, unless the virtual school can show that a student
25 has demonstrated mastery or completion of the subject area; and

26 (3) Regular assessment in the core areas of instruction as required by
27 regulations adopted by the State Board under § 7–1408 of this subtitle.

28 (b) A curriculum adopted under subsection (a) of this section shall have an
29 interactive program with significant online components.

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
31 1, 2021.