

# SENATE BILL 104

F1  
SB 258/20 – EHE

(PRE-FILED)

1r0335  
CF HB 83

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By: **Senator Bailey**

Requested: August 31, 2020

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2021

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 5, 2021

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public and Nonpublic Schools – Electric Retractable Room Partitions –**  
3 **Operation Requirements**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting public and nonpublic school employees from operating an  
5 electric retractable room partition in a school except under certain circumstances;  
6 requiring any annual safety review, evaluation, or exercise for school employees in a  
7 certain school building to include certain information and demonstrations; requiring  
8 the State Department of Education to develop and disseminate model safety  
9 guidelines on the safe operation of electric retractable room partitions; requiring the  
10 Department to publish model safety guidelines on its public website; defining certain  
11 terms; and generally relating to electric retractable room partitions and schools.

12 BY adding to

13 Article – Education

14 Section 7–447

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Education**

20 **7–447.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1           **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**  
2 **INDICATED.**

3                   **(2) “ELECTRIC RETRACTABLE ROOM PARTITION” MEANS A ROOM**  
4 **PARTITION, DIVIDER, CURTAIN, OR ANY OTHER SIMILAR DEVICE THAT IS OPENED**  
5 **AND RETRACTED BY OPERATION OF AN ELECTRIC MOTOR.**

6                   **(3) “SCHOOL EMPLOYEE” MEANS AN EMPLOYEE OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
7 **OR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL.**

8           **(B) A SCHOOL EMPLOYEE MAY NOT OPERATE AN ELECTRIC RETRACTABLE**  
9 **ROOM PARTITION IN A SCHOOL BUILDING UNLESS:**

10                   **(1) THE PARTITION INCLUDES A SAFETY SENSOR THAT**  
11 **AUTOMATICALLY STOPS THE MOVEMENT OF THE PARTITION WHEN A BODY PASSES**  
12 **BETWEEN THE LEADING EDGE AND A WALL, AN OPPOSING PARTITION, OR THE**  
13 **STACKING AREA OF THE PARTITION;**

14                   **(2) NO STUDENTS ARE PRESENT IN THE SCHOOL BUILDING; OR**

15                   **(3) THE ROOM OR AREA WHERE THE PARTITION IS LOCATED IS**  
16 **LOCKED OR OTHERWISE FREE OF OR INACCESSIBLE TO STUDENTS.**

17           **(C) ANY ANNUAL SAFETY REVIEW, EVALUATION, OR EXERCISE FOR SCHOOL**  
18 **EMPLOYEES IN A SCHOOL BUILDING WITH AN ELECTRIC RETRACTABLE ROOM**  
19 **PARTITION SHALL INCLUDE INFORMATION AND DEMONSTRATIONS, AS**  
20 **APPROPRIATE, REGARDING THE SAFE OPERATION OF THE ELECTRIC RETRACTABLE**  
21 **ROOM PARTITION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTIONS (B) AND (D) OF THIS**  
22 **SECTION.**

23           **(D) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:**

24                   **(1) DEVELOP AND DISSEMINATE TO EACH COUNTY BOARD AND EACH**  
25 **NONPUBLIC SCHOOL MODEL SAFETY GUIDELINES REGARDING THE OPERATION OF**  
26 **ELECTRIC RETRACTABLE ROOM PARTITIONS; AND**

27                   **(2) PUBLISH THE MODEL SAFETY GUIDELINES ON ITS PUBLIC**  
28 **WEBSITE.**

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