

SENATE BILL 231

F1, J1

1lr1530

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Senator Hester**

Requested: November 1, 2020

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2021

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Schools – Cyber Safety Guide and Training Course – Development,**
3 **Implementation, and Reporting**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Department of Education, the Behavioral Health
5 Administration within the Maryland Department of Health, the Maryland Center
6 for School Safety, and the Department of Information Technology jointly to develop
7 and publish a cyber safety guide and training course to be implemented in public
8 schools beginning in a certain school year; requiring the cyber safety guide and
9 training course to contain information and guidance on safe Internet, social media,
10 and technology usage for certain students, parents, and employees in public schools;
11 requiring the cyber safety guide and training course to be developed in consultation
12 with certain professionals and include certain information and best practices;
13 requiring the cyber safety guide to be posted on certain websites and distributed to
14 each county board of education; requiring the training course to be updated each year
15 and available on the State Department of Education website; requiring the training
16 course to include certain components and to satisfy certain standards and
17 certification requirements; authorizing the inclusion of certain modules in the
18 training course; authorizing a county board to offer credit on completion of the
19 training course; requiring the State Department of Education to provide certain
20 updates to county boards each year; requiring the State Department of Education to
21 compile certain data from county boards; authorizing the State Board of Education
22 to adopt certain regulations; requiring the State Department of Education, the
23 Behavioral Health Administration within the Maryland Department of Health, the
24 Maryland Center for School Safety, and the Department of Information Technology
25 to report to the General Assembly on or before a certain date on the development of
26 the cyber safety guide and training course; and generally relating to the development
27 and implementation of a cyber safety guide and training course in public schools.

28 BY adding to

29 Article – Education

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Section 7-447
2 Annotated Code of Maryland
3 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

6 **Article – Education**

7 **7-447.**

8 **(A) (1) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2022, THE DEPARTMENT, THE**
9 **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION WITHIN THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF**
10 **HEALTH, THE MARYLAND CENTER FOR SCHOOL SAFETY, AND THE DEPARTMENT**
11 **OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY JOINTLY SHALL DEVELOP AND PUBLISH A CYBER**
12 **SAFETY GUIDE AND TRAINING COURSE TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**
13 **BEGINNING IN THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR.**

14 **(2) THE CYBER SAFETY GUIDE AND TRAINING COURSE SHALL**
15 **CONTAIN INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE ON SAFE INTERNET, SOCIAL MEDIA, AND**
16 **TECHNOLOGY USAGE FOR:**

17 **(I) STUDENTS IN THIRD THROUGH TWELFTH GRADES;**

18 **(II) PARENTS; AND**

19 **(III) SCHOOL EMPLOYEES WHO INTERACT WITH STUDENTS.**

20 **(B) THE CYBER SAFETY GUIDE AND TRAINING COURSE UNDER THIS**
21 **SECTION SHALL:**

22 **(1) BE DEVELOPED IN CONSULTATION WITH PROFESSIONALS WHO**
23 **SPECIALIZE IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND CHILD PSYCHOLOGY; AND**

24 **(2) INCLUDE INFORMATION AND BEST PRACTICES THAT PROMOTE**
25 **RESPONSIBLE INTERNET USE THROUGH PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF:**

26 **(I) CYBERBULLYING;**

27 **(II) CONTENT DEPICTING OR ENCOURAGING SUICIDE OR**
28 **SELF-HARM;**

29 **(III) HATE SPEECH;**

- 1 (IV) SEXUALLY GRAPHIC CONTENT;
- 2 (V) SALES OF ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES;
- 3 (VI) IDENTITY THEFT AND CYBERSECURITY THREATS;
- 4 (VII) DISSEMINATION OF FALSE INFORMATION; AND
- 5 (VIII) NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF SOCIAL MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY
- 6 USAGE ON BEHAVIORAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH.

7 (C) THE CYBER SAFETY GUIDE SHALL BE:

- 8 (1) POSTED ON THE WEBSITES OF THE DEPARTMENT AND THE
- 9 MARYLAND CENTER FOR SCHOOL SAFETY; AND
- 10 (2) DISTRIBUTED TO EACH COUNTY BOARD.

11 (D) THE CYBER SAFETY TRAINING COURSE SHALL:

- 12 (1) BE UPDATED EACH YEAR AND AVAILABLE ON THE DEPARTMENT'S
- 13 WEBSITE;
- 14 (2) BE SELF-GUIDED;
- 15 (3) INCLUDE SEPARATE TRAINING COMPONENTS FOR STUDENTS,
- 16 PARENTS, AND SCHOOL EMPLOYEES;
- 17 (4) OFFER A CERTIFICATE ON COURSE COMPLETION; AND
- 18 (5) INCLUDE A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPONENT THAT
- 19 SATISFIES SCHOOL ACCREDITATION STANDARDS AND PERSONNEL CERTIFICATION
- 20 REQUIREMENTS.

21 (E) THE CYBER SAFETY TRAINING COURSE MAY INCORPORATE OTHER

22 STATE, FEDERAL, NONPROFIT, OR PUBLIC TRAINING MODULES.

23 (F) A COUNTY BOARD MAY OFFER STUDENTS CREDIT FOR THE COMPLETION

24 OF THE CYBER SAFETY TRAINING COURSE.

25 (G) EACH YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

- 26 (1) SEND A LIST OF AVAILABLE ONLINE TRAINING MODULES AND ANY

1 UPDATES TO ONLINE TRAINING TO EACH COUNTY BOARD; AND

2 (2) COMPILE DATA FROM EACH COUNTY BOARD ON THE NUMBER OF
3 STAFF AND STUDENTS BY GRADE LEVEL WHO HAVE RECEIVED CERTIFICATION OR
4 CREDIT FOR COMPLETING THE CYBER SAFETY TRAINING COURSE.

5 (H) THE STATE BOARD MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS
6 SECTION.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before July 1, 2022, the
8 State Department of Education, the Behavioral Health Administration within the
9 Maryland Department of Health, the Maryland Center for School Safety, and the
10 Department of Information Technology shall report to the General Assembly in accordance
11 with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article on the development of the cyber safety guide
12 and training course for students, parents, and teachers.

13 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
14 1, 2021.