

SENATE BILL 124

Unofficial Copy
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2001 Regular Session
(11r0843)

ENROLLED BILL

-- Economic and Environmental Affairs/Ways and Means --

Introduced by **Senators Hoffman, Astle, Blount, Collins, Dorman, Green,
Hafer, Hollinger, Kelley, Lawlah, Ruben, Sfikas, and Teitelbaum
Teitelbaum, and Van Hollen**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this
____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, ____ M.

President.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **John Joseph Price Gun Safety Education - Public Schools - Firearms Safety**
3 **and Accident Prevention Education Program**

4 FOR the purpose of ~~creating a certain gun safety education program in public schools;~~
5 ~~requiring the State Department of Education to establish certain guidelines;~~
6 ~~requiring local school boards to develop a certain curriculum~~ *requiring the State*
7 *Board of Education to establish policy and guidelines for a certain firearms*
8 *safety and accident prevention program for certain students to be implemented by*
9 *each county board of education; requiring each county board to implement the*
10 *program; authorizing a county board to implement the program in conjunction*
11 *with certain entities; making a stylistic change; prohibiting the display or*
12 *handling of ammunition or firearms in certain programs under certain*
13 *circumstances; authorizing the display or handling of ammunition or firearms in*
14 *certain programs under certain circumstances;* and generally relating to ~~a gun~~
15 ~~safety~~ *the firearms safety and accident prevention education program in public*

1 schools in the State.

2 ~~BY adding to~~

3 ~~Article - Education~~

4 ~~Section 7-418~~

5 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~

6 ~~(1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)~~

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

8 Article - Education

9 Section 2-205(h)

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

12 BY adding to

13 Article - Education

14 Section 7-411.1

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

17 Preamble

18 WHEREAS, It is in the vital interests of the State of Maryland to prevent the loss
19 of children's lives to firearms accidents; and

20 WHEREAS, It is necessary to teach children that a gun is not a toy and what they
21 should do if they happen on an accessible firearm; and

22 WHEREAS, A number of youth in Maryland have been the unfortunate and
23 tragic victims of firearms accidents over the years; and

24 WHEREAS, Firearms safety and accident avoidance programs, including the
25 "Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program", the "In a Flash" program, and the "STAR" program,
26 have been developed and taught to children across America by school systems, law
27 enforcement agencies, civic and community groups, and other organizations,
28 specifically to prevent accidental deaths from firearms; now, therefore,

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

31 **Article - Education**

32 ~~7-418.~~

33 ~~(A) EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL SHALL HAVE A MANDATORY GUN SAFETY~~
34 ~~EDUCATION PROGRAM THAT IS GIVEN IN A PLANNED AND SEQUENTIAL MANNER,~~

1 ~~KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 12, AS PART OF THE INSTRUCTION IN HEALTH~~
 2 ~~EDUCATION.~~

3 ~~(B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH GUIDELINES FOR THE~~
 4 ~~ADMINISTRATION OF THE GUN SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM.~~

5 ~~(C) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL:~~

6 ~~(I) DEVELOP A GUN SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM WITH A~~
 7 ~~CURRICULUM:~~

8 ~~(I) APPROPRIATE TO THE DEMOGRAPHICS AND NEEDS OF EACH~~
 9 ~~SCHOOL SYSTEM IN THE STATE; AND~~

10 ~~(II) UTILIZING MULTIPLE RESOURCES FOR CREATION;~~

11 ~~(2) SUBMIT THE GUN SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM TO THE~~
 12 ~~DEPARTMENT FOR APPROVAL PRIOR TO IMPLEMENTATION; AND~~

13 ~~(3) REPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT PRIOR TO THE START OF EACH~~
 14 ~~SCHOOL YEAR ON THE STATUS OF THE GUN SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM.~~

15 2-205.

16 *(h) (1) With the advice of the State Superintendent, the State Board shall*
 17 *establish basic policy and guidelines for the program of instruction for the public*
 18 *schools.*

19 *(2) The policy and guidelines shall be printed in sufficient quantities to*
 20 *provide copies to:*

21 *(i) Public school officials and teachers;*

22 *(ii) Private schools; and*

23 *(iii) Interested citizens of this State.*

24 *(3) The State Board [of Education] shall require the establishment of*
 25 *criteria in each county for the selection of applicants for enrollment in public secondary*
 26 *school career and technology education programs. Enrollment criteria developed for*
 27 *this purpose shall ensure equal access to programs.*

28 *(4) THE STATE BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH POLICY AND GUIDELINES FOR*
 29 *A PROGRAM OF INSTRUCTION FOR FIREARMS SAFETY AND ACCIDENT PREVENTION,*
 30 *TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY EACH COUNTY BOARD, THAT INCLUDES AS OPTIONS A*
 31 *PROGRAM DEVELOPED OR ADOPTED BY A COUNTY BOARD CONSISTENT WITH THE*
 32 *POLICY AND GUIDELINES, THE "EDDIE EAGLE GUNSAFE PROGRAM", THE "IN A*
 33 *FLASH" PROGRAM, AND THE "STAR" PROGRAM, AND THAT:*

34 *(I) FOR STUDENTS IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 6,*
 35 *ADDRESSES FIREARMS SAFETY AND ACCIDENT PREVENTION; AND*

1 (II) FOR STUDENTS IN GRADE 7 THROUGH GRADE 12, ADDRESSES
2 FIREARMS SAFETY AND ACCIDENT PREVENTION OR HUNTER SAFETY, OR BOTH.

3 7-411.1.

4 (A) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM OF
5 INSTRUCTION FOR FIREARMS SAFETY AND ACCIDENT PREVENTION OR HUNTER
6 SAFETY THAT IS APPROPRIATE FOR THE STUDENTS IN ITS PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND
7 THAT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE POLICY AND GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED BY THE
8 STATE BOARD UNDER § 2-205(H)(4) OF THIS ARTICLE.

9 (B) A COUNTY BOARD MAY IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM IN CONJUNCTION
10 WITH A STATE OR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, ANOTHER ENTITY OF STATE
11 OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT, OR A COMMUNITY OR CIVIC ORGANIZATION.

12 (C) THE FIREARMS SAFETY AND ACCIDENT PREVENTION OR HUNTER SAFETY
13 PROGRAM IMPLEMENTED BY A COUNTY BOARD UNDER THIS SECTION:

14 (1) MAY NOT INVOLVE THE DISPLAY OR HANDLING OF AMMUNITION OR
15 AN ACTUAL HANDGUN, RIFLE, SHOTGUN, OR OTHER FIREARM ON SCHOOL
16 PREMISES; AND

17 (2) FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 7 THROUGH 12, MAY INVOLVE THE
18 DISPLAY AND HANDLING OF AMMUNITION AND AN ACTUAL HANDGUN, RIFLE,
19 SHOTGUN, OR OTHER FIREARM AT AN ESTABLISHED SPORT SHOOTING RANGE.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
21 ~~October~~ July 1, 2001.