

Chapter 176

(House Bill 1066)

AN ACT concerning

Education – Fire Drill Requirements – State Fire Prevention Code

FOR the purpose of requiring the State Superintendent of Schools to require certain county superintendents of schools to hold fire drills in each public school in accordance with the State Fire Prevention Code; and generally relating to fire drills in public schools.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Education
Section 7–408
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2014 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Public Safety
Section 6–206(a)(1) and (d)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2011 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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

Article – Education

7–408.

(a) The State Superintendent shall require each county superintendent to hold a fire drill in each public school [at least 10 times each school year and at least once every 60 days] **IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATE FIRE PREVENTION CODE ESTABLISHED UNDER § 6–206 OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE.**

- (b) Each public school shall:
- (1) Keep records of these fire drills; and
 - (2) Send a copy to the county superintendent.

Article – Public Safety

6–206.

(a) (1) (i) To protect life and property from the hazards of fire and explosion, the Commission shall adopt comprehensive regulations as a State Fire Prevention Code.

(ii) The State Fire Prevention Code shall comply with standard safe practice as embodied in widely recognized standards of good practice for fire prevention and fire protection.

(iii) The State Fire Prevention Code has the force and effect of law in the political subdivisions of the State.

(d) (1) The State Fire Prevention Code establishes the minimum requirements to protect life and property from the hazards of fire and explosion.

(2) If a State or local law or regulation is more stringent than the State Fire Prevention Code, the more stringent law or regulation governs if the more stringent law or regulation is:

(i) not inconsistent with the State Fire Prevention Code; and

(ii) not contrary to recognized standards and good engineering practices.

(3) If there is a question whether a State or local law or regulation governs, the decision of the Commission determines:

(i) which law or regulation governs; and

(ii) whether State and local officials have complied with the State Fire Prevention Code.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2017.

Approved by the Governor, April 18, 2017.