

HOUSE BILL 216

F3

8lr0745

By: **Prince George's County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: January 18, 2018

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Prince George's County Board of Education – Student Hearing and Vision**
3 **Screenings – Reporting Requirements**

4 **PG 504–18**

5 FOR the purpose of requiring the Prince George's County Board of Education to report to
6 the Maryland Department of Health the number of students who did not receive
7 recommended services after failing a hearing or vision screening and the reason why;
8 requiring the county board to develop a certain strategy to increase the number of
9 students receiving recommended services after failing a hearing or vision screening;
10 requiring the county board to report annually on its progress in meeting certain goals
11 to the Prince George's County Executive, the Prince George's County Council, and
12 the Prince George's County delegation to the General Assembly; providing for the
13 application of this Act; and generally relating to hearing and vision screenings for
14 students in Prince George's County.

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 Article – Education
17 Section 7–404
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

22 **Article – Education**

23 7–404.

24 (a) (1) Each county board or county health department shall provide hearing
25 and vision screenings for all students in the public schools.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2) Each county health department shall provide and fund hearing and
2 vision screenings for all students:

3 (i) In any private school that has received a certificate of approval
4 under § 2–206 of this article; and

5 (ii) In any nonpublic educational facility in this State approved as a
6 special education facility by the Department.

7 (b) (1) Unless evidence is presented that a student has been tested within the
8 past year, the screenings required under subsection (a) of this section shall be given in the
9 year that a student enters a school system, enters the first grade, and enters the eighth or
10 ninth grade.

11 (2) Further screening shall be done in accordance with:

12 (i) The bylaws adopted by the State Board; or

13 (ii) Policies adopted by a county board or a county health
14 department.

15 (c) The results of the hearing and vision screenings required by this section shall
16 be:

17 (1) Made a part of the permanent record file of each student;

18 (2) Given to the parents of any student who fails the screenings; and

19 (3) Reported to the county board or the county health department.

20 (d) On a form provided by the county board or the county health department, a
21 parent or guardian shall report to the county board or the county health department on the
22 recommended services received by a student who failed the screenings.

23 (e) The county board or the county health department shall report to the
24 Maryland Department of Health the results of the hearing and vision screenings and, to
25 the extent practicable, the number of students receiving the recommended services.

26 **(F) (1) THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES ONLY IN PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY.**

27 **(2) THE PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL**
28 **REPORT TO THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ON:**

29 **(I) THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO DID NOT RECEIVE THE**
30 **RECOMMENDED SERVICES AFTER FAILING A HEARING OR VISION SCREENING; AND**

1 **(II) THE REASON EACH STUDENT UNDER ITEM (I) OF THIS**
2 **PARAGRAPH DID NOT RECEIVE THE RECOMMENDED SERVICES.**

3 **(3) THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL**
4 **DEVELOP A WRITTEN STRATEGY WITH QUANTIFIABLE GOALS TO INCREASE THE**
5 **NUMBER OF STUDENTS RECEIVING RECOMMENDED SERVICES AFTER FAILING A**
6 **HEARING OR VISION SCREENING.**

7 **(4) THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL**
8 **REPORT ANNUALLY ON ITS PROGRESS IN MEETING THE GOALS DEVELOPED UNDER**
9 **PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION TO:**

10 **(I) THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY EXECUTIVE;**

11 **(II) THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL; AND**

12 **(III) THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY DELEGATION TO THE**
13 **GENERAL ASSEMBLY.**

14 **[(f)] (G)** In cooperation with the Maryland Department of Health, the
15 Department of Education shall adopt standards, rules, and regulations to carry out the
16 provisions of this section.

17 **[(g)] (H)** A student whose parent or guardian objects in writing to hearing and
18 vision screening on the ground that it conflicts with the tenets and practice of a recognized
19 church or religious denomination of which he is an adherent or member may not be required
20 to take these screenings.

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
22 October 1, 2018.