SENATE BILL 1257

By: The President (By Request – Administration)
Constitutional Requirements Complied with for Introduction in the last 35 Days of Session
Introduced and read first time: March 7, 2018
Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Safe Schools Act of 2018

FOR the purpose of requiring the Board of Public Works to adopt certain regulations
requiring the Interagency Committee on School Construction to consult with the
Maryland Center for School Safety on certain construction projects; removing a
requirement that the Center be located at Bowie State University; authorizing the
Center to establish satellite offices in certain locations; increasing the membership
of the Governing Board of the Center; increasing the amount the Governor shall
provide in the annual budget for the Center; removing certain requirements for
distribution of grant funds received by the Center; requiring the Governing Board of
the Center to include certain recommendations in a certain annual report; requiring
each county board of education to employ a designated security administrator;
requiring designated security administrators, school resource officers, and school
security personnel to be certified by certain entities; requiring the State Board of
Education, in consultation with the Center, to adopt certain regulations; requiring
the Center to develop a certain curriculum and training to be used for a certain
purpose; requiring each county board to prepare a school emergency plan for all
public schools in the county; requiring each school emergency plan to be submitted
to the Center for review; requiring the Center to transmit the plan and any
recommendations to the State Board; requiring the State Board to take certain
actions on each plan; requiring each county board to perform a safety assessment of
each public school in the county each year; requiring each county board to submit a
certain report on or before a certain date each year; requiring each county board to
establish a school threat assessment team; establishing the Safe Schools Fund as a
special, nonlapsing fund; specifying the purpose of the Fund; requiring the State
Department of Education to administer the Fund; requiring the State Treasurer to
hold the Fund and the Comptroller to account for the Fund; specifying the contents
of the Fund; specifying the purpose for which the Fund may be used; providing for
the investment of money in and expenditures from the Fund; requiring interest
earnings of the Fund to be credited to the Fund; specifying that money expended

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
from the Fund is supplemental to certain other funds; exempting the Fund from
certain provisions of law requiring interest on State money to accrue to the General
Fund of the State; requiring the custodian of records to deny a request for certain
records under the Maryland Public Information Act; defining certain terms; making
this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to school safety.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Education
Section 5–301(a) and 7–1501
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Education
Section 5–301(d)(3), 7–1502, and 7–1503 through 7–1505
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume)

BY adding to
Article – Education
Section 7–1601 through 7–1605 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 16. Safe
Schools Act”
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume)

BY adding to
Article – General Provisions
Section 4–341
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2014 Volume and 2017 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – State Finance and Procurement
Section 6–226(a)(2)(i)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2015 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – State Finance and Procurement
Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)101. and 102.
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2015 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – State Finance and Procurement
Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)103.
Annotated Code of Maryland
SENATE BILL 1257

(2015 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

Article – Education

5–301.

(a) In this subtitle, “Interagency Committee” means the Interagency Committee on School Construction established under § 5–302 of this subtitle.

(d) (3) The regulations adopted by the Board of Public Works shall contain provisions:

(i) Establishing a State and local cost–share formula for each county that identifies the factors used in establishing the formulas;

(ii) Requiring local education agencies to adopt educational facilities master plans and annual capital improvement programs;

(iii) Providing a method for establishing a maximum State construction allocation for each project approved for State funding;

(iv) Referencing the policies stated in § 5–7B–07 of the State Finance and Procurement Article;

(v) Requiring local school systems to adopt procedures consistent with the minority business enterprise policies of the State as required under the Code of Maryland Regulations;

(vi) Establishing a process for the appeal of decisions by the Interagency Committee to the Board of Public Works;

(vii) Requiring local education agencies to adopt, implement, and periodically update comprehensive maintenance plans; [and]

(viii) Authorizing the Board of Public Works to withhold State public school construction funds from a local education agency that fails to comply with the requirements of item (vii) of this paragraph; AND

(ix) Requiring the Interagency Committee to consult with the Maryland Center for School Safety on all new public school construction and capital improvements.

7–1501.
(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) “Center” means the Maryland Center for School Safety.

(c) “Governing Board” means the Governing Board of the Maryland Center for School Safety.

7–1502.

(a) There is a Maryland Center for School Safety.

(b) The Center is an independent unit within State government.

(c) [The Center shall be based at Bowie State University.

(d) The head of the Center is the executive director, who shall be appointed by the Governing Board.

[(e) (D)] The Center may employ the additional staff necessary to carry out the Center’s functions as provided in the State budget.

[(f) (E)] The Center may establish a satellite office [at an institution of higher education located] in each of the following [regions] LOCATIONS:

(1) The Eastern Shore;

(2) Western Maryland; [and]

(3) SOUTHERN MARYLAND; AND

(4) [The Baltimore Region] BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY.

[(g) (F)] The Center shall perform the following functions and duties:

(1) Collaborate with local school systems in the State, law enforcement agencies, State and local government, community organizations, parents, and other stakeholders to provide a comprehensive, coordinated approach to school safety;

(2) In partnership with stakeholders:

(i) Disseminate information on best practices, programs, and resources;

(ii) Provide technical assistance and training;
(iii) Collaborate on collection, analysis, and integration of statewide data; and

(iv) Promote interagency efforts that support safe schools for all students, school staff, parents, and community members;

(3) Establish a Safe School Information and Best Practices Clearinghouse of up-to-date, research-based, and data-driven information on effective strategies for creating and maintaining safe schools;

(4) Identify safe school professional staff development best practices;

(5) Initiate collaborative partnerships and facilitate coordination among local school systems, law enforcement agencies, State and local government, and community organizations to leverage existing resources to deliver school safety services uniformly to local school systems;

(6) Provide technical assistance and consultation to local school systems, State and local government, and community organizations on best practices for safe schools and violence prevention;

(7) Develop a website containing a searchable database of definitive research, books, videos, white papers, speakers, websites, and other school safety resources;

(8) Develop criteria that may be applied consistently and uniformly in local school systems for coding unsafe incidents and serious or violent offenses;

(9) Research and recommend the use of common assessment tools to be used to identify specific problems and needs of schools and neighborhoods to facilitate intervention before assessed findings become problematic;

(10) Assist local school systems to conduct a thorough assessment of their school safety data, school building layouts, and use of human resources for monitoring purposes to determine the need for:

(i) Surveillance and other security technology; and

(ii) Innovations to maximize the use of human resources to monitor activity and influence positive relationship building;

(11) Maintain and maximize relationships with emergency responders, law enforcement personnel, parents, and other emergency preparedness stakeholders to ensure seamless execution in an emergency event, including:

(i) Consolidate resources among stakeholders to maximize support and secure necessary skills to ensure emergency plan implementation;
(ii) Conduct collaborative training and preparation exercises; and

(iii) Identify improvements and ensure nonduplication of effort in emergency response procedures;

(12) Provide safety information on traveling to and from school to parents and students twice a year that includes data related to bus and pedestrian safety, strategies for ensuring personal safety, efforts of the local school system or school to improve safety, and information on the available options for reporting incidents or concerns;

(13) Utilize and update an existing clearinghouse of law enforcement resources that are available to support school safety to ensure that it includes information regarding the purpose and process for accessing available funding;

(14) Assist local school systems to improve and monitor traffic control measures in the immediate vicinity of schools to reduce the potential for pedestrian and vehicle accidents;

(15) Assist the Department to evaluate and update current data systems to ensure they are best suited for providing useful information on school safety issues;

(16) Assist local school systems to monitor local school system and individual school behavior data to ensure fairness in the application of consequences for student misbehavior;

(17) Assist the Department and local school systems:

(i) To prepare an annual report that combines multiple school safety data systems into one format for public review; and

(ii) To incorporate new data points into existing data collection systems;

(18) Assist in the development of safety and security criteria for the design and operation of school facilities;

(19) Provide technical assistance to local school systems in the review of safety and security audits and the implementation of improvements in school facilities; and

(20) Foster coordination among all entities responsible for ensuring the safety and security of school facilities in the State.

7–1503.

(a) There is a Governing Board of the Center.

(b) The Governing Board shall include the following members:
(1) The State Superintendent, or the State Superintendent’s designee;

(2) The Secretary of State Police, or the Secretary’s designee;

(3) The Attorney General, or the Attorney General’s designee;

(4) The Secretary of the Department of Disabilities, or the Secretary’s designee;

(5) A representative of local superintendents of schools, appointed by the Public School Superintendents’ Association of Maryland;

(6) A representative of the Maryland Association of Boards of Education, appointed by the Association;

(7) A school psychologist or sociologist, appointed by the State Superintendent of Schools; [and]

(8) A SPECIAL EDUCATION ADMINISTRATOR, APPOINTED BY THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT;

(9) A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER, APPOINTED BY THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS;

(10) A MEMBER OF THE MARYLAND PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION, APPOINTED BY THE MARYLAND PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION;

(11) A SHERIFF APPOINTED BY THE MARYLAND SHERIFFS’ ASSOCIATION;

(12) A CHIEF OF POLICE APPOINTED BY THE MARYLAND CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION;

(13) AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL FIRE OR RESCUE SERVICES PROFESSIONAL, APPOINTED BY THE MARYLAND INSTITUTE FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SYSTEMS;

(14) THE DIRECTOR OF THE MARYLAND COORDINATION AND ANALYSIS CENTER; and

(15) Four members of the public, including at least a parent of a public school student, a representative of a nonpublic school, and a representative of school bus drivers, appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate.
(c) The Governor shall appoint a chair of the Governing Board from among its members.

(d) A member appointed by the Governor:

(1) Serves at the pleasure of the Governor;

(2) Serves for a term of 3 years and until a successor is appointed and qualifies; and

(3) May be reappointed but may not serve more than two consecutive terms.

(e) A member of the Governing Board:

(1) May not receive compensation as a member of the Governing Board; but

(2) Is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(f) The Governing Board shall:

(1) Develop an implementation plan to phase in the establishment and operation of the Center;

(2) Provide general oversight and direction to the Center; and

(3) Approve the annual budget for the Center.

(a) The Governor shall provide [$500,000] $3,000,000 in the annual State budget to carry out the provisions of this subtitle.

(b) [Subject to subsection (c) of this section, the] THE operation of the Center shall be supported by:

(1) Funds as provided by the Governor in the annual State budget;

(2) Grants or other assistance from local education agencies;

(3) Federal grants; and

(4) Any other grants or contributions from public or private entities received by the Center.
[c] The Governing Board shall distribute 10% of each grant received by the Center as follows:

1. If the grant is designated for the Center, in equal amounts to Bowie State University and, if satellite offices are established under § 7–1502(f) of this subtitle, the institutions of higher education where satellite offices are located;

2. If the grant is designated for the Center office at Bowie State University or for a satellite office, to the institution of higher education where the designated office is located; or

3. If the grant is designated for a combination of Center offices, to the institutions of higher education where the designated offices are located.]

7–1505.

(a) The Governing Board shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on or before December 15 of each year.

(b) The report shall include:

1. A list of all the activities of the Center; [and]

2. An update on the current status and effectiveness of the Center; AND

3. **Recommendations made by the Governing Board for improving school and student safety.**

**Subtitle 16. Safe Schools Act.**

7–1601.

(A) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(B) “Designated security administrator” means the individual who is responsible for ensuring the safety and security of students, faculty, staff, and visitors on school property and at school-sponsored events.

(C) “Safety assessment” means a written evaluation of the safety conditions in each public school to:
(1) Identify and, if necessary, develop solutions for physical safety concerns, including but not limited to, building security issues; and

(2) Identify and evaluate any patterns of safety concerns occurring on school property or at school–sponsored events.

(D) “School emergency plan” means a plan for each local school system and each public school within the school system that addresses mitigation of, preparedness for, response to, and recovery from emergencies, including:

(1) Violent or traumatic events on school grounds during regular school hours or during school–sponsored activities; and

(2) Events in the community that affect normal school functioning.

(E) “School resource officer” has the meaning stated in § 26–102 of this article.

(F) “School security personnel” means individuals employed by a local school system to provide safety and security–related services at a public school.

7–1602.

(A) (1) Each county board shall employ a designated security administrator.

(2) Each designated security administrator shall be certified by the Maryland Center for School Safety.

(B) School resource officers shall be certified by the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission.

(C) (1) The State Board, in consultation with the Maryland Center for School Safety, shall adopt regulations that relate to the training and certification of designated security administrators and other school safety personnel.

(2) The Maryland Center for School Safety shall develop curriculum and training that will be approved and used by the
MARYLAND POLICE TRAINING AND STANDARDS COMMISSION FOR CERTIFICATION
AND TRAINING OF SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS.

7–1603.

(A) (1) Each county board shall prepare a school emergency
plan that includes detailed plans for the manner in which public
schools in the county will address:

(i) Behavioral threats; and

(ii) Emergency events.

(2) Each school emergency plan prepared in accordance
with paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be submitted to the
MARYLAND CENTER FOR SCHOOL SAFETY for review.

(3) The Maryland Center for School Safety shall transmit
to the State Board a school emergency plan submitted for review,
along with any recommended amendments to the plan.

(4) The State Board shall either approve, reject, or
propose amendments to a school emergency plan.

(B) (1) Each county board shall complete a safety assessment
of each public school in the county.

(2) Each public school shall be assessed annually.

(C) On or before August 1 each year, each county board shall
submit a report to the Maryland Center for School Safety that
includes, for the immediately preceding school year:

(1) Details of all threats made against any school or
school system facility;

(2) Details of all school lockdowns, evacuations, and any
other emergency response scenarios; and

(3) The date of the last amendment of the school
emergency plan, including details of each amendment.
(D) The State Board, in consultation with the Maryland Center for School Safety, shall adopt regulations that relate to the contents of school emergency plans and the process for safety assessments of schools.

7–1604.

(A) (1) Each county board shall establish one or more school threat assessment teams in the county.

(2) A county board may establish a committee or office charged with the oversight of the school threat assessment teams in the county.

(B) A school threat assessment team shall include members with experience in counseling, instruction, school administration, and law enforcement.

(C) A school threat assessment team shall:

(1) Provide guidance to students, faculty, and staff regarding recognition of threatening or aberrant behavior that may represent a threat to the community, school, or an individual;

(2) Identify members of the school community to whom threatening behavior should be reported; and

(3) Implement policies adopted by the county board.

(D) On a preliminary determination that a student poses a threat of violence or physical harm to self or others, a school threat assessment team shall immediately report its determination to the county superintendent and to local law enforcement agencies.

(E) The State Board, in consultation with the Maryland Center for School Safety, shall adopt regulations that relate to training of school threat assessment teams.

7–1605.

(A) In this section, “Fund” means the Safe Schools Fund.

(B) There is a Safe Schools Fund.
(C) The purpose of the Fund is to provide grants to county boards for the implementation of approved school emergency plans and other safety improvements recommended by the Maryland Center for School Safety.

(D) The Department shall administer the Fund.

(E) (1) The Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to § 7–302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

(2) The State Treasurer shall hold the Fund separately, and the Comptroller shall account for the Fund.

(F) The Fund consists of:

(1) Revenue distributed to the Fund under § 9–1A–30 of the State Government Article;

(2) Money appropriated in the State budget to the Fund;

(3) Any interest earnings of the Fund; and

(4) Any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit of the Fund.

(G) The Fund may be used only to provide grants to county boards for the implementation of approved school emergency plans and other safety improvements recommended by the Maryland Center for School Safety.

(H) (1) The State Treasurer shall invest the money of the Fund in the same manner as other State money may be invested.

(2) Any interest earnings of the Fund shall be credited to the Fund.

(I) Expenditures from the Fund may be made only in accordance with the State budget.

(J) Money expended from the Fund to county boards for school emergency plans and other safety improvements is supplemental to and
IS NOT INTENDED TO TAKE THE PLACE OF FUNDING THAT OTHERWISE WOULD BE APPOPRIATED TO COUNTY BOARDS.

Article – General Provisions

4–341.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, “COUNTY BOARD” MEANS THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF A COUNTY AND INCLUDES THE BALTIMORE CITY BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS.

(B) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, A CUSTODIAN SHALL DENY INSPECTION OF ALL RECORDS OF A COUNTY BOARD PERTAINING TO SCHOOL EMERGENCY PLANS AND SAFETY ASSESSMENTS.

(C) A CUSTODIAN SHALL ALLOW INSPECTION OF SCHOOL EMERGENCY PLAN RECORDS AND SAFETY ASSESSMENT RECORDS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE, THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THAT ENTITY’S OFFICIAL DUTIES.

Article – State Finance and Procurement

6–226.

(a) (2) (i) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and unless inconsistent with a federal law, grant agreement, or other federal requirement or with the terms of a gift or settlement agreement, net interest on all State money allocated by the State Treasurer under this section to special funds or accounts, and otherwise entitled to receive interest earnings, as accounted for by the Comptroller, shall accrue to the General Fund of the State.

(ii) The provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph do not apply to the following funds:

101. the Advance Directive Program Fund; [and]

102. the Make Office Vacancies Extinct Matching Fund; AND

103. THE SAFE SCHOOLS FUND.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three–fifths of all the members elected to
each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is enacted.