

SENATE BILL 893

J1, F5

0lr3102

By: **Senator Hester**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2020

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Health – Cyber Safety Handbook – Handbook Development and**
3 **Publication**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Department of Education, the Maryland
5 Department of Health, and the Behavioral Health Administration jointly to develop
6 and publish a certain handbook regarding safe Internet, social media, and technology
7 usage for certain students, parents, and teachers on or before a certain date;
8 requiring the handbook to include certain information and best practices; requiring
9 certain agencies to consult with certain professionals when developing a certain
10 handbook; requiring the handbook to be posted on certain agency websites and
11 distributed to each county board of education in the State; and generally relating to
12 a cyber safety handbook.

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
14 That:

15 (a) On or before July 1, 2021, the State Department of Education, the Maryland
16 Department of Health, and the Behavioral Health Administration jointly shall develop and
17 publish a handbook that contains information and guidance on safe Internet, social media,
18 and technology usage for students, parents, and teachers.

19 (b) The handbook developed under this section shall contain the following
20 information and best practices:

21 (1) evidence–based impacts of Internet, social media, and technology usage
22 on an individual’s behavioral, mental, and physical health;

23 (2) data and trends regarding social media and technology usage;

24 (3) a list of the top 10 safety recommendations for students, parents, and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 teachers; and

2 (4) any other relevant information.

3 (c) The State Department of Education, the Maryland Department of Health, and
4 the Behavioral Health Administration shall consult with professionals who specialize in
5 child development and child psychology when developing the handbook under this section.

6 (d) The handbook shall be:

7 (1) posted on the following agency websites:

8 (i) the Department;

9 (ii) the Maryland Department of Health; and

10 (iii) the Behavioral Health Administration; and

11 (2) distributed to each county board of education in the State.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
13 1, 2020.