

# HOUSE BILL 83

F1

(11r1392)

## ENROLLED BILL

— Ways and Means/Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs —

Introduced by **Delegate Queen**

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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker.

### CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public and Nonpublic Schools – Electric Retractable Room Partitions –**  
3 ~~**Operation Requirements Review and Report**~~ ***Operation Requirements***

4 FOR the purpose of ~~prohibiting public and nonpublic school employees from operating an~~  
5 ~~electric retractable room partition in a school except under certain circumstances;~~  
6 ~~requiring any annual safety review, evaluation, or exercise for school employees in a~~  
7 ~~certain school building to include certain information and demonstrations; requiring~~  
8 ~~the State Department of Education to develop and disseminate model safety~~  
9 ~~guidelines on the safe operation of electric retractable room partitions; requiring the~~  
10 ~~Department to publish model safety guidelines on its public website; defining certain~~  
11 ~~terms; requiring the State Department of Education to conduct a thorough review~~  
12 ~~and evaluation of certain matters relating to the operation of electric retractable~~  
13 ~~room partitions; requiring the Department to adopt certain regulations or guidelines~~  
14 ~~on or before a certain date under certain circumstances; requiring the Department~~  
15 ~~to report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date on~~

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#### EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

*Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.*



~~its review and actions; prohibiting public and nonpublic school employees from operating an electric retractable room partition in a school except under certain circumstances; requiring any annual safety review, evaluation, or exercise for school employees in a certain school building to include certain information and demonstrations; requiring the State Department of Education to develop and disseminate model safety guidelines on the safe operation of electric retractable room partitions; requiring the Department to publish model safety guidelines on its public website; defining certain terms; and generally relating to electric retractable room partitions and schools.~~

BY adding to

Article – Education

Section 7-447

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

~~BY adding to~~

~~Article – Education~~

~~Section 7-447~~

~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~

~~(2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)~~

~~SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,~~

~~That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:~~

~~Article – Education~~

~~7-447.~~

~~(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED:~~

~~(2) “ELECTRIC RETRACTABLE ROOM PARTITION” MEANS A ROOM PARTITION, DIVIDER, CURTAIN, OR ANY OTHER SIMILAR DEVICE THAT IS OPENED AND RETRACTED BY OPERATION OF AN ELECTRIC MOTOR.~~

~~(3) “SCHOOL EMPLOYEE” MEANS AN EMPLOYEE OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL OR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL.~~

~~(B) A SCHOOL EMPLOYEE MAY NOT OPERATE AN ELECTRIC RETRACTABLE ROOM PARTITION IN A SCHOOL BUILDING UNLESS:~~

~~(1) THE PARTITION INCLUDES A SAFETY SENSOR THAT AUTOMATICALLY STOPS THE MOVEMENT OF THE PARTITION WHEN A BODY PASSES BETWEEN THE LEADING EDGE AND A WALL, AN OPPOSING PARTITION, OR THE STACKING AREA OF THE PARTITION;~~

1 ~~(2) NO STUDENTS ARE PRESENT IN THE SCHOOL BUILDING; OR~~

2 ~~(3) THE ROOM OR AREA WHERE THE PARTITION IS LOCATED IS~~  
3 ~~LOCKED OR OTHERWISE FREE OF OR INACCESSIBLE TO STUDENTS.~~

4 ~~(C) ANY ANNUAL SAFETY REVIEW, EVALUATION, OR EXERCISE FOR SCHOOL~~  
5 ~~EMPLOYEES IN A SCHOOL BUILDING WITH AN ELECTRIC RETRACTABLE ROOM~~  
6 ~~PARTITION SHALL INCLUDE INFORMATION AND DEMONSTRATIONS, AS~~  
7 ~~APPROPRIATE, REGARDING THE SAFE OPERATION OF THE ELECTRIC RETRACTABLE~~  
8 ~~ROOM PARTITION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTIONS (B) AND (D) OF THIS~~  
9 ~~SECTION.~~

10 ~~(D) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:~~

11 ~~(1) DEVELOP AND DISSEMINATE TO EACH COUNTY BOARD AND EACH~~  
12 ~~NONPUBLIC SCHOOL MODEL SAFETY GUIDELINES REGARDING THE OPERATION OF~~  
13 ~~ELECTRIC RETRACTABLE ROOM PARTITIONS; AND~~

14 ~~(2) PUBLISH THE MODEL SAFETY GUIDELINES ON ITS PUBLIC~~  
15 ~~WEBSITE.~~

16 ~~SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,~~

17 ~~That:~~

18 ~~(a) The State Department of Education shall conduct a thorough review and~~  
19 ~~evaluation of:~~

20 ~~(1) the current electric retractable room partition equipment used in public~~  
21 ~~and nonpublic schools throughout the State;~~

22 ~~(2) the current practices used by staff in public and nonpublic schools~~  
23 ~~throughout the State when operating electric retractable room partitions; and~~

24 ~~(3) existing policies by public schools, local school systems, and nonpublic~~  
25 ~~schools that govern the operation of electric retractable room partitions.~~

26 ~~(b) On or before September 1, 2022, after conducting its thorough examination~~  
27 ~~and review, the State Department of Education shall adopt any regulations or guidelines~~  
28 ~~needed to ensure that the operation of electric retractable room partitions in public and~~  
29 ~~nonpublic schools occur in the safest manner possible.~~

30 ~~(c) On or before December 1, 2022, the State Department of Education shall~~  
31 ~~report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article,~~  
32 ~~the General Assembly on its review and any actions taken under this Act.~~



1                   (2) PUBLISH THE MODEL SAFETY GUIDELINES ON ITS PUBLIC  
2 WEBSITE.

3                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
4 1, 2021.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.