

HOUSE BILL 418

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1lr0360

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Delegate Guyton**

Requested: July 27, 2020

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2021

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **County Boards of Education – Symbols of Hate – Policy**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring, on or before a certain date and subject to a certain exception,
4 each county board of education to adopt a policy prohibiting the use or display of
5 symbols of hate under certain circumstances; requiring a certain policy to include
6 certain prohibitions; requiring a county board to develop and distribute certain
7 educational materials to certain public schools for a certain purpose; defining a
8 certain term; and generally relating to a policy prohibiting the use or display of
9 symbols of hate in public schools.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – Education

12 Section 7–424.4

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Education**

18 **7–424.4.**

19 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION, “SYMBOL OF HATE” MEANS A SYMBOL, AN
20 IMAGE, OR AN OBJECT THAT EXPRESSES ANIMUS TOWARD ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL ON
21 THE BASIS OF RACE, COLOR, RELIGION, GENDER IDENTITY, SEXUAL ORIENTATION,
22 DISABILITY, OR NATIONAL ORIGIN.

23 (2) “SYMBOL OF HATE” INCLUDES A NOOSE, SWASTIKA, AND

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **CONFEDERATE FLAG.**

2 **(B) (1) (I) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS**
3 **SUBSECTION, ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2021, EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL**
4 **ADOPT A POLICY PROHIBITING THE USE OR DISPLAY OF A SYMBOL OF HATE ON**
5 **SCHOOL GROUNDS OR IN ANY PROGRAM, SERVICE, SCHOOL BUILDING, OR ACTIVITY**
6 **THAT IS FUNDED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY STATE FUNDS.**

7 **(II) THE POLICY SHALL PROHIBIT THE DISPLAY OF A SYMBOL**
8 **OF HATE ON CLOTHING, BOOK BAGS, FOLDERS, AND SIMILAR ITEMS.**

9 **(2) THE POLICY ADOPTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS**
10 **SUBSECTION MAY NOT PROHIBIT THE IMAGE OF A SYMBOL OF HATE FROM BEING**
11 **USED AS AN EXAMPLE IN A COURSE OF STUDY AT THE SCHOOL.**

12 **(C) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL DEVELOP AND DISTRIBUTE EDUCATIONAL**
13 **MATERIALS DETAILING THE POLICY ADOPTED UNDER THIS SECTION, INCLUDING**
14 **CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATIONS, TO EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL UNDER ITS**
15 **JURISDICTION FOR DISSEMINATION TO ALL SCHOOL EMPLOYEES AND STUDENTS.**

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
17 1, 2021.