A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Education – Public Schools – Lesson Plans and Instructional Material

FOR the purpose of requiring the posting of lesson plans and instructional material used at public schools on the public school’s website; establishing requirements for the development, production, and inspection of certain instructional material referenced in certain lesson plans; and generally relating to lesson plans and instructional material in public schools.

BY adding to

Article – Education

Section 4–141 and 7–112.2
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

Article – Education

4–141.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, “INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL” MEANS TOOLS USED FOR EDUCATIONAL INSTRUCTION, INCLUDING:

(1) TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER READING MATERIAL;

(2) VIDEOS;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW. [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
(3) Digital material; and

(4) Websites and other online applications.

(B) Each county board shall:

(1) Ensure that each public school in the county complies with the requirements of § 7–112.2 of this article; and

(2) Adopt reasonable rules that govern the timely production and inspection of instructional material that is not publicly available on the internet.

7–112.2.

(A) This section does not apply to:

(1) A public school with less than 400 students; or

(2) A student presentation.

(B) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) “Instructional material” means tools used for educational instruction, including:

(i) Textbooks and other reading material;

(ii) Videos;

(iii) Digital material; and

(iv) Websites and other online applications.

(3) (i) “Lesson plan” means an outline of the instruction provided by a teacher for a course.

(ii) “Lesson plan” includes instructional material that is assigned, distributed, selected, or presented in a course.

(C) Each course or class taught at a public school shall have a lesson plan.
(D) (1) Each public school shall prominently display the following information on the school’s website:

   (i) Each lesson plan that was used at the school during the immediately preceding school year;

   (ii) Each grade- or school-wide presentation, assembly, lecture, or other activity or event facilitated by the school during instructional hours;

   (iii) Information on how the school documents, reviews, and approves lesson plans; and

   (iv) The rules established by the county board in accordance with § 4–141 of this article for the production and inspection of instructional material that is not publicly available on the Internet.

(2) The information in paragraph (1)(i) through (iii) of this subsection shall be organized, at a minimum, by subject area and grade level.

(3) A public school shall:

   (i) Post the information in paragraph (1)(i) and (ii) of this subsection on the school’s website for at least 60 days after the end of the school year; and

   (ii) Retain the information in paragraph (1)(i) and (ii) of this subsection for 2 years after posting the information on the website.

(E) (1) A lesson plan required by this section shall, at a minimum:

   (i) Identify instructional material by the:

      1. Title and author; or

      2. Organization or website associated with the material or activity;
(II) Include a brief description of the instructional material; and

(III) If publicly available on the Internet, include:

1. A link to the instructional material; or

2. Information on how to request a copy of the instructional material.

(2) If an individual component of instructional material used throughout the lesson plan is produced as a single volume, that volume shall be listed only once in the lesson plan.

(3) If instructional material was created by a teacher at the school, the lesson plan shall identify the teacher as the author.

(F) (1) The Department shall develop a template for public schools to use to report lesson plans in accordance with this section.

(2) To satisfy the requirements of this section, a public school may:

(i) Use the template created by the Department in order to report lesson plans;

(ii) Create one or more templates to report lesson plans;

(iii) Authorize a teacher to update a lesson plan throughout the school year, if all updates are completed by June 30 of that year; and

(iv) Allow a teacher to use online collaborative software, documents, or spreadsheets to complete or update a lesson plan.

(G) The Department, in consultation with county boards of education, may adopt regulations to implement this section.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2022.