HOUSE BILL 1287


Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2022
Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Public Schools – Curricula and Instructional Materials – Required List of Information
(Curriculum Transparency Act of 2022)

FOR the purpose of requiring each county board of education to direct each public school in the county to provide certain information regarding curricula and instructional materials beginning in a certain school year; requiring the State Superintendent to direct the Comptroller to withhold certain funding from a county board under certain circumstances; and generally relating to curricula and instructional materials in public schools in the State.

BY adding to
Article – Education
Section 4–141
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) (1) BEGINNING IN THE 2022–2023 SCHOOL YEAR, EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL DIRECT EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL IN THE COUNTY TO:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW. [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
(I) Create and update a detailed list of the curricula and instructional materials used in the school for that school year; and

(II) Maintain on the homepage of its website:

1. A link to the list required under item (I) of this paragraph;

2. The phone number and e-mail address for the appropriate individual at the school, the county board, and the department who can respond to questions, concerns, and recommendations about curricula and instructional materials; and

3. An electronic form, created by the school or the county board, for the submission of complaints to the school or the county board regarding curricula and instructional materials.

(2) The list required under paragraph (1)(I) of this subsection shall include, as applicable, the title, author, creator, and publisher of each book, periodical, treatise, article, recording, software, website, or paper.

(B) (1) On or before August 1, 2023, and each August 1 thereafter, each county board shall report to the department the number of complaints it received regarding curricula and instructional materials during the immediately preceding school year.

(2) On or before September 1, 2023, and each September 1 thereafter, the department shall report to the general assembly, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the state government article, on the information received in accordance with paragraph (1) of this subsection for the immediately preceding school year.

(C) If a county board fails to comply with the requirements of this section, the state superintendent, with the approval of the state board, shall notify the comptroller, who shall withhold, for each school that fails to provide the information required in this section, 1% of the next installment and each subsequent installment due the county board from the general state school fund until the state superintendent notifies the comptroller that the county board is in full compliance with the requirements of this section.
SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2022.