

# SENATE BILL 162

F1, J1  
SB 231/21 – EHE

(PRE-FILED)

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By: **Senator Hester**

Requested: October 28, 2021

Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2022

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Schools – Cyber Safety Guide and Training Course – Development,**  
3 **Implementation, and Reporting**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Department of Education, the Behavioral Health  
5 Administration within the Maryland Department of Health, the Maryland Center  
6 for School Safety, and the Department of Information Technology jointly to develop  
7 and publish a cyber safety guide and training course to be implemented in public  
8 schools beginning in a certain school year; requiring the cyber safety guide and  
9 training course to be developed in consultation with certain professionals; requiring  
10 the cyber safety guide to be posted on the websites of the State Department of  
11 Education and the Maryland Center for School Safety and distributed to each county  
12 board of education; authorizing a county board to offer credit on completion of the  
13 training course; and generally relating to the development and implementation of a  
14 cyber safety guide and training course in public schools.

15 BY adding to  
16 Article – Education  
17 Section 7–450  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

22 **Article – Education**

23 **7–450.**

24 **(A) (1) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2023, THE DEPARTMENT, THE**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION WITHIN THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF**  
2 **HEALTH, THE MARYLAND CENTER FOR SCHOOL SAFETY, AND THE DEPARTMENT**  
3 **OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY JOINTLY SHALL DEVELOP AND PUBLISH A CYBER**  
4 **SAFETY GUIDE AND TRAINING COURSE TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
5 **BEGINNING IN THE 2023–2024 SCHOOL YEAR.**

6 **(2) THE CYBER SAFETY GUIDE AND TRAINING COURSE SHALL**  
7 **CONTAIN INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE ON SAFE INTERNET, SOCIAL MEDIA, AND**  
8 **TECHNOLOGY USAGE FOR:**

9 **(I) STUDENTS IN GRADES 3 THROUGH 12;**

10 **(II) PARENTS; AND**

11 **(III) SCHOOL EMPLOYEES WHO INTERACT WITH STUDENTS.**

12 **(B) THE CYBER SAFETY GUIDE AND TRAINING COURSE UNDER THIS**  
13 **SECTION SHALL:**

14 **(1) BE DEVELOPED IN CONSULTATION WITH PROFESSIONALS WHO**  
15 **SPECIALIZE IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND CHILD PSYCHOLOGY; AND**

16 **(2) INCLUDE INFORMATION AND BEST PRACTICES THAT PROMOTE**  
17 **RESPONSIBLE INTERNET USE THROUGH PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT OF:**

18 **(I) CYBERBULLYING;**

19 **(II) CONTENT DEPICTING OR ENCOURAGING SUICIDE OR**  
20 **SELF-HARM;**

21 **(III) HATE SPEECH;**

22 **(IV) SEXUALLY GRAPHIC CONTENT;**

23 **(V) SALES OF ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES;**

24 **(VI) IDENTITY THEFT AND CYBERSECURITY THREATS;**

25 **(VII) DISSEMINATION OF FALSE INFORMATION; AND**

26 **(VIII) NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF SOCIAL MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY**  
27 **USAGE ON BEHAVIORAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH.**

1           **(C) THE CYBER SAFETY GUIDE SHALL BE:**

2                   **(1) POSTED ON THE WEBSITES OF THE DEPARTMENT AND THE**  
3 **MARYLAND CENTER FOR SCHOOL SAFETY; AND**

4                   **(2) DISTRIBUTED TO EACH COUNTY BOARD.**

5           **(D) THE CYBER SAFETY TRAINING COURSE SHALL:**

6                   **(1) BE UPDATED EACH YEAR AND AVAILABLE ON THE DEPARTMENT'S**  
7 **WEBSITE;**

8                   **(2) BE SELF-GUIDED;**

9                   **(3) INCLUDE SEPARATE TRAINING COMPONENTS FOR STUDENTS,**  
10 **PARENTS, AND SCHOOL EMPLOYEES;**

11                   **(4) OFFER A CERTIFICATE ON COURSE COMPLETION; AND**

12                   **(5) INCLUDE A PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPONENT THAT**  
13 **SATISFIES SCHOOL ACCREDITATION STANDARDS AND PERSONNEL CERTIFICATION**  
14 **REQUIREMENTS.**

15           **(E) THE CYBER SAFETY TRAINING COURSE MAY INCORPORATE OTHER**  
16 **STATE, FEDERAL, NONPROFIT, OR PUBLIC TRAINING MODULES.**

17           **(F) A COUNTY BOARD MAY OFFER STUDENTS CREDIT FOR THE COMPLETION**  
18 **OF THE CYBER SAFETY TRAINING COURSE.**

19           **(G) EACH YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:**

20                   **(1) SEND A LIST OF AVAILABLE ONLINE TRAINING MODULES AND ANY**  
21 **UPDATES TO ONLINE TRAINING TO EACH COUNTY BOARD; AND**

22                   **(2) COMPILE DATA FROM EACH COUNTY BOARD ON THE NUMBER OF**  
23 **STAFF AND STUDENTS BY GRADE LEVEL WHO HAVE RECEIVED CERTIFICATION OR**  
24 **CREDIT FOR COMPLETING THE CYBER SAFETY TRAINING COURSE.**

25           **(H) THE STATE BOARD MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS**  
26 **SECTION.**

27           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before July 1, 2023, the  
28 State Department of Education, the Behavioral Health Administration within the  
29 Maryland Department of Health, the Maryland Center for School Safety, and the

1 Department of Information Technology shall report to the General Assembly in accordance  
2 with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article on the development of the cyber safety guide  
3 and training course for students, parents, and teachers.

4 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
5 1, 2022.