

HOUSE BILL 493

F1

5lr0652

By: **Delegates Fennell, Harris, Healey, Ivey, Martinez, Pruski, Roberts, Taylor, Turner, Wilkins, and Williams**

Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2025

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Schools – Commemorative Day – Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day**

3 FOR the purpose of designating a certain date as Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day;
4 requiring each county board of education to develop and implement a program of
5 education for Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day; requiring the State Department of
6 Education to develop model content for a program of education for Ruby Bridges
7 Walk to School Day; and generally relating to Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Education

10 Section 7–136

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

14 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article – Education**

16 **7–136.**

17 **(A) THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION IS TO DESIGNATE NOVEMBER 14 EACH**
18 **YEAR AS “RUBY BRIDGES WALK TO SCHOOL DAY” TO COMMEMORATE RUBY**
19 **BRIDGES, WHO, ON NOVEMBER 14, 1960, BECAME THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN**
20 **STUDENT TO INTEGRATE AN ALL–WHITE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN NEW ORLEANS,**
21 **LOUISIANA.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(B) (1) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A**
2 **PROGRAM OF EDUCATION FOR RUBY BRIDGES WALK TO SCHOOL DAY TO BE HELD**
3 **ON OR AROUND NOVEMBER 14 EACH YEAR.**

4 **(2) THE PROGRAM OF EDUCATION MAY INCLUDE:**

5 **(I) A SYMBOLIC WALK TO SCHOOL, ENCOURAGING STUDENTS**
6 **TO REFLECT ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF RUBY BRIDGES'S HISTORIC WALK;**

7 **(II) INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS FOCUSING ON THE HISTORY**
8 **OF CIVIL RIGHTS, THE IMPACT OF SCHOOL DESEGREGATION, AND THE ONGOING**
9 **STRUGGLE FOR RACIAL EQUALITY;**

10 **(III) DISCUSSIONS, ASSEMBLIES, OR PRESENTATIONS THAT**
11 **HIGHLIGHT RUBY BRIDGES AND THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT; AND**

12 **(IV) INTERACTIVE PROJECTS HIGHLIGHTING THE IMPORTANCE**
13 **OF DIVERSITY, TOLERANCE, AND JUSTICE, INCLUDING ARTWORK, ESSAYS, OR**
14 **ARTISTIC PERFORMANCES.**

15 **(3) IN DEVELOPING A PROGRAM OF EDUCATION IN ACCORDANCE**
16 **WITH PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A COUNTY BOARD OR PUBLIC SCHOOL**
17 **IS ENCOURAGED TO:**

18 **(I) COLLABORATE WITH PARENTS, COMMUNITY**
19 **ORGANIZATIONS, LOCAL LEADERS, AND CIVIL RIGHTS GROUPS; AND**

20 **(II) PARTNER WITH LOCAL MUSEUMS, LIBRARIES, AND**
21 **HISTORICAL SOCIETIES TO PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLORE**
22 **THE HISTORY OF CIVIL RIGHTS.**

23 **(C) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP MODEL CONTENT FOR A**
24 **PROGRAM OF EDUCATION FOR RUBY BRIDGES WALK TO SCHOOL DAY.**

25 **(2) THE MODEL CONTENT DEVELOPED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN**
26 **ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION:**

27 **(I) MAY INCLUDE INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS, INCLUDING**
28 **AGE-APPROPRIATE LESSON PLANS, DISCUSSION GUIDES, HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS,**
29 **AND MULTIMEDIA RESOURCES; AND**

30 **(II) SHALL INCLUDE RESOURCES TO ASSIST TEACHERS TO**
31 **ENGAGE STUDENTS IN DISCUSSIONS ABOUT CIVIL RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE.**

1 **(D) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS**
2 **SECTION.**

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
4 1, 2025.