

HOUSE BILL 14

F1

(PRE-FILED)

6lr0720

CF 6lr0722

By: **Delegate Foley**

Requested: August 22, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **County Boards of Education – Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation –**
3 **Information Collection and Reporting Requirements**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the contents of a certain bullying, harassment, or intimidation
5 form to require the identification of certain information; requiring each county board
6 of education to post certain information on its website in a certain manner on or
7 before a certain date each year; and generally relating to bullying, harassment, or
8 intimidation and county boards of education.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Education
11 Section 7-424
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Education**

17 7-424.

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

19 (2) “Bullying, harassment, or intimidation” means intentional conduct,
20 including verbal, physical, or written conduct, or an intentional electronic communication,
21 that:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



12 (ii) 1. Occurs on school property, at a school activity or event, or
13 on a school bus; or

14 2. Substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a school.

15 (3) "Electronic communication" means a communication transmitted by
16 means of an electronic device, including a telephone, cellular phone, computer, or pager.

17 (4) "Intimate parts" means the naked genitals, pubic area, buttocks, or
18 female nipple.

19 (5) "Sexual contact" means sexual intercourse, including genital-genital,
20 oral-genital, anal-genital, or oral-anal, whether between persons of the same or opposite
21 sex.

22 (b) (1) The Department shall require a county board to report incidents of
23 bullying, harassment, or intimidation against students attending a public school under the
24 jurisdiction of the county board.

27 (i) A student;

28 (ii) The parent, guardian, or close adult relative of a student; or

29 (iii) A school staff member.

30 (c) (1) The Department shall create a standard victim of bullying, harassment,
31 or intimidation report form.

32 (2) Each victim of bullying, harassment, or intimidation report form shall:

- (i) Identify the victim and the alleged perpetrator, if known;
- (ii) Indicate the age of the victim and alleged perpetrator;
- (iii) Describe the incident, including alleged statements made by the victim and alleged perpetrator;

(IV) IF THE INCIDENT IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN MOTIVATED IN SUBSTANTIAL PART BY ANY OF THE ACTUAL OR PERCEIVED CHARACTERISTICS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (A)(2)(I)1 OF THIS STATE THOSE PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS, IF KNOWN;

[(iv)] (v) Indicate the location of the incident;

10 [v] (VI) Identify any physical injury suffered by the victim and
11 describe the seriousness and any permanent effects of the injury;

12 [(vi)] (VII) Indicate the number of days a student is absent from
13 school, if any, as a result of the incident;

21 (d) (1) A county board may establish an anonymous two-way electronic tip
22 program to allow the reporting of an act of bullying, harassment, or intimidation of a
23 student.

6 (ii) Provide a transcript of the conversation to a designated person
7 in the school.

(5) The Governor may include funding in the State budget to provide grants to county boards to establish an anonymous two-way electronic tip program.

10 (e) (1) Each county board shall submit summaries of report forms filed with
11 the county board to the State Board on or before January 31 each year.

12 (2) A county board shall delete any information that identifies an
13 individual.

14 (F) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 31 EACH YEAR, EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL
15 POST IN A PROMINENT LOCATION ON ITS WEBSITE INFORMATION ABOUT THE
16 NUMBER OF INCIDENTS OF BULLYING, HARASSMENT, OR INTIMIDATION REPORTED
17 TO THE STATE BOARD BY THE COUNTY BOARD UNDER SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS
18 SECTION THAT WERE DETERMINED TO BE MOTIVATED BY AN ACTUAL OR PERCEIVED
19 PERSONAL CHARACTERISTIC OF AN INDIVIDUAL OR A GROUP, DISAGGREGATED BY
20 THE MOTIVATING PERSONAL CHARACTERISTIC.

21 **(f) (G)** The information contained in a victim of bullying, harassment, or
22 intimidation report form in accordance with subsection (c) of this section or received from
23 an anonymous two-way electronic tip in accordance with subsection (d) of this section:

24 (1) Is confidential and may not be redislosed except as otherwise provided
25 under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act or this section; and

(2) May not be made a part of a student's permanent educational record.

27 [(g)] (h) (1) The Department shall submit a report on or before March 31 each
28 year to the Senate Education, [Health, and Environmental Affairs] ENERGY, AND THE
29 ENVIRONMENT Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee, in accordance
30 with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, consisting of a summary of the information
31 included in the victim of bullying, harassment, or intimidation report forms filed with the
32 county boards the previous year.

33 (2) The report submitted by the Department shall include, to the extent
34 feasible:

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
11 1, 2026.