

HOUSE BILL 73

F1

6lr1404

(PRE-FILED)

By: Delegate Toles

Requested: October 28, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Schools – Water Safety and Swimming Course – Established**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Board of Education to develop curriculum content
4 standards for a course on water safety and swimming for public school students in
5 certain grades; requiring county boards of education to implement the water safety
6 and swimming course for students in certain grades in certain schools in the county;
7 requiring each county board to ensure the provision of reasonable accommodations
8 necessary to provide students with disabilities equal opportunity to participate, to
9 the fullest extent possible, in the water safety and swimming course; and generally
10 relating to a course on water safety and swimming in public schools.

11 BY adding to

12 Article – Education

13 Section 7-455

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Education**

19 **7-455.**

20 **(A) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2027, THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL**
21 **DEVELOP CURRICULUM CONTENT STANDARDS FOR A COURSE ON WATER SAFETY**
22 **AND SWIMMING FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH**
23 **GRADE 8.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(B) (1) BEGINNING IN THE 2027–2028 SCHOOL YEAR, EACH COUNTY**
2 **BOARD SHALL IMPLEMENT A COURSE ON WATER SAFETY AND SWIMMING BASED ON**
3 **THE CURRICULUM CONTENT STANDARDS DEVELOPED BY THE STATE BOARD UNDER**
4 **SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION IN EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS IN**
5 **KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 8.**

6 **(2) A COUNTY BOARD MAY AWARD AN ELECTIVE PHYSICAL**
7 **EDUCATION CREDIT TO STUDENTS FOR SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE COURSE.**

8 **(C) A PUBLIC SCHOOL MAY PARTNER WITH A LOCAL PARKS AND**
9 **RECREATION AGENCY TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO THE NECESSARY WATER AND**
10 **SWIMMING FACILITIES FOR THE COURSE OFFERED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS**
11 **SECTION.**

12 **(D) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL ENSURE THE PROVISION OF REASONABLE**
13 **ACCOMMODATIONS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES EQUAL**
14 **OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE, TO THE FULLEST EXTENT POSSIBLE, IN THE WATER**
15 **SAFETY AND SWIMMING COURSE.**

16 **(E) THE STATE BOARD MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS**
17 **SECTION.**

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
19 1, 2026.