

# HOUSE BILL 355

F1  
HB 763/25 – W&M

6lr0874  
CF SB 254

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By: **Delegate S. Johnson**

Introduced and read first time: January 19, 2026

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 28, 2026

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Program –**  
3 **Human and Sex Trafficking**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring that a certain program on the awareness and prevention of  
5 sexual abuse and assault include, for students in certain grades, material promoting  
6 the awareness and prevention of human and sex trafficking; and generally relating  
7 to human and sex trafficking awareness and prevention programs in public and  
8 nonpublic schools.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Article – Education  
11 Section 7–439  
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 7–439.

18 (a) In this section, “nonpublic school” means a noncollegiate educational  
19 institution that:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (1) Holds a certificate of approval from the State Board under § 2–206(e) of  
2 this article; and

3 (2) Participates in the Nonpublic Schools Textbook and Technology Grants  
4 Program.

5 (b) (1) The State Board and each nonpublic school in the State shall develop  
6 and implement a program of age–appropriate education on the awareness and prevention  
7 of sexual abuse and assault.

8 (2) The program required under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall [be]:

9 (i) [Taught] **BE TAUGHT** by a teacher who is trained to provide  
10 instruction on the awareness and prevention of sexual abuse and assault; [and]

11 (ii) [Incorporated] **BE INCORPORATED** into the health curriculum  
12 of each county board and each nonpublic school; **AND**

13 **(III) INCLUDE, FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 6 THROUGH 8,**  
14 **MATERIAL PROMOTING THE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION OF HUMAN AND SEX**  
15 **TRAFFICKING.**

16 (c) The State Board shall adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of this  
17 section.

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

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.