



FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

Senate Bill 897

Primary and Secondary Education- Student Technology
and Social Media Resource Guide
Hearing March 7, 2025

I encourage a **Favorable with Amendments** report on SB897 for the following reasons.

This bill provides for a practical student technology and social media guide for parents, caregivers, and students. Parents and caregivers may not be familiar with the many technologies and social media applications that students have access to, and this guide can provide valuable information in one resource.

I suggest the following amendments to maximize the value of the guide.

1. Add text at 7-2202 (C)(1) about what the guide will include as follows: promote digital literacy skills, including critical information seeking and information evaluation skills
 - a. HB1082 the Maryland Consumer Health Information Hub became law in 2022 and directs the UMD Horowitz Center for Health Literacy to “provide educational and age-appropriate resources that teach students health literacy and health literacy skills for primary and secondary schools....”
 - b. Health literacy skills include how to find and assess off-line and online information for decision making
 - c. The technology and social media resource guide should align with HB1082 primary and secondary school requirements and reinforce students’ health literacy skill development both for information seeking generally and health, safety, social services information specifically
2. Add text in the Preamble that directs the National Center for School Mental Health to collaborate also with the UMD Horowitz Center for Health Literacy and the UMD Marylanders Online program. Both organizations have significant interests in promoting and advancing parent, caregiver and student technology and social media skills.
 - a. The Horowitz Center for Health Literacy is legislatively mandated to provide health literacy resources for school aged children.
 - b. Marylanders Online is funded by the state of Maryland to promote and advance all Marylanders digital literacy skills.

Cynthia Baur
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