

HOUSE BILL 571

F1

4lr2142

By: **Delegates Kaiser, Barkley, Barnes, Bates, Carr, Clagett, Healey, Luedtke, Reznik, Sophocleus, F. Turner, Valderrama, Valentino-Smith, A. Washington, and Zucker**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2014

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **School Counselors – Role Expansion in Public High Schools**

3 FOR the purpose of stating a certain goal of the State regarding a certain ratio of
4 school counselors to students; requiring each local school system to develop and
5 adopt a certain plan on or before a certain date; requiring certain school
6 counselors to spend a certain percentage of time performing certain activities;
7 requiring each local school system to share certain resources and technology
8 available for certain school counselors; requiring certain county boards of
9 education to develop a certain transition plan using existing resources of a
10 certain local school system; requiring the State Board of Education to develop
11 and distribute certain guidelines; requiring the State Board in collaboration
12 with certain county boards to adopt certain regulations; requiring the State
13 Department of Education to provide a certain notice if a certain grant is
14 received; making this Act contingent on the receipt of a certain grant; and
15 generally relating to school counselors in public high schools.

16 BY adding to

17 Article – Education

18 Section 6–122

19 Annotated Code of Maryland

20 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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

23 **Article – Education**

24 **6–122.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(A) (1) IT IS THE GOAL OF THE STATE TO ACHIEVE A RATIO OF AT**
2 **LEAST ONE SCHOOL COUNSELOR TO EVERY 250 STUDENTS IN EVERY PUBLIC**
3 **HIGH SCHOOL IN THE STATE BY 2020.**

4 **(2) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2016, EACH LOCAL SCHOOL**
5 **SYSTEM SHALL DEVELOP AND ADOPT A PLAN REGARDING HOW TO ACHIEVE A**
6 **RATIO OF AT LEAST ONE SCHOOL COUNSELOR TO EVERY 250 STUDENTS.**

7 **(B) (1) A SCHOOL COUNSELOR SHALL SPEND AT LEAST 80% OF THE**
8 **SCHOOL COUNSELOR'S TIME PERFORMING DIRECT SERVICES TO STUDENTS,**
9 **INCLUDING:**

10 **(I) DELIVERING SCHOOL GUIDANCE CURRICULUM**
11 **THROUGH LARGE GROUP GUIDANCE, INTERDISCIPLINARY CURRICULUM**
12 **DEVELOPMENT, GROUP ACTIVITIES, AND PARENT WORKSHOPS;**

13 **(II) GUIDING INDIVIDUAL STUDENT ACADEMIC AND**
14 **PERSONAL PLANNING THROUGH INDIVIDUAL OR SMALL GROUP ASSISTANCE**
15 **AND ADVISEMENT;**

16 **(III) PROVIDING RESPONSIVE SERVICES THROUGH**
17 **CONSULTATION WITH STUDENTS, FAMILIES, AND STAFF, INDIVIDUAL AND**
18 **SMALL GROUP COUNSELING, CRISIS COUNSELING, AND PEER FACILITATION;**
19 **AND**

20 **(IV) PERFORMING OTHER STUDENT SERVICES LISTED IN A**
21 **SCHOOL COUNSELOR JOB DESCRIPTION THAT HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE**
22 **STATE BOARD.**

23 **(2) THE STATE BOARD SHALL DEVELOP AND DISTRIBUTE**
24 **GUIDELINES TO EACH LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM TO ASSIST WITH THE**
25 **IMPLEMENTATION OF PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

26 **(3) USING EXISTING RESOURCES OF THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM,**
27 **EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL DEVELOP A TRANSITION PLAN FOR**
28 **IMPLEMENTING SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.**

29 **(C) EACH LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM SHALL SHARE RESOURCES AND**
30 **TECHNOLOGY AVAILABLE FOR SCHOOL COUNSELORS TO ENHANCE THE**
31 **EFFICIENT UTILIZATION OF TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES IN THE**
32 **PERFORMANCE OF A SCHOOL COUNSELOR'S FUNCTIONS.**

1 **(D) THE STATE BOARD, IN COLLABORATION WITH EACH COUNTY**
2 **BOARD, SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS SECTION.**

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
4 contingent on the receipt of a United States Department of Education Elementary and
5 Secondary School Counseling Programs grant by the State Department of Education.
6 If a grant is received, the State Department of Education shall notify the Department
7 of Legislative Services within 5 days after the grant is received. If notice of receipt of a
8 grant is not received by the Department of Legislative Services on or before December
9 1, 2015, this Act shall be null and void without the necessity of further action by the
10 General Assembly.

11 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to Section 2 of
12 this Act, this Act shall take effect October 1, 2014.