

Chapter 244

(House Bill 1110)

AN ACT concerning

Public Schools – Health and Safety ~~Guidelines and Procedures~~ Best Practices – Digital Devices

FOR the purpose of requiring the State Department of Education, in consultation with the Maryland Department of Health, on or before a certain date, to develop health and safety ~~guidelines and procedures~~ best practices for the use of digital devices in ~~public~~ school classrooms; requiring the State Department of Education, on or before a certain date, to provide the ~~guidelines and procedures~~ best practices to each county board of education and nonpublic school for consideration and adoption; ~~requiring a county board that decides not to adopt the guidelines and procedures to provide the State Department of Education an explanation of the basis for the decision; requiring the State Department of Education to convene and consult with a certain workgroup, including representatives of certain entities; requiring the State Department of Education to submit an interim report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date;~~ and generally relating to health and safety ~~guidelines and procedures~~ best practices for the use of digital devices in ~~public~~ schools.

BY adding to

Article – Education
Section 7-441
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2014 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

Article – Education

7-441.

(A) ~~(1)~~ ON OR BEFORE JUNE 1, 2019, THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, SHALL DEVELOP HEALTH AND SAFETY ~~GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES~~ BEST PRACTICES FOR THE USE OF DIGITAL DEVICES IN ~~PUBLIC~~ SCHOOL CLASSROOMS.

~~(2)~~ (B) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2019, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE THE ~~GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES~~ BEST PRACTICES TO EACH COUNTY BOARD AND NONPUBLIC SCHOOL FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION.

~~(B) IF A COUNTY BOARD DECIDES NOT TO ADOPT THE GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES DEVELOPED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, THE COUNTY BOARD SHALL PROVIDE TO THE DEPARTMENT AN EXPLANATION OF THE BASIS FOR THE DECISION.~~

~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:~~

~~(a) In developing the health and safety guidelines and procedures for the use of digital devices in public school classrooms required under § 7-441 of the Education Article, as enacted by this Act, the State Department of Education shall convene and consult with a workgroup of affected stakeholders, including representatives from:~~

- ~~(1) the Maryland State Education Association;~~
- ~~(2) the Public School Superintendents Association of Maryland;~~
- ~~(3) the Maryland Parent Teacher Association;~~
- ~~(4) the Maryland Association of Boards of Education;~~
- ~~(5) the Maryland Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics;~~
- ~~(6) MedChi, the Maryland State Medical Society;~~
- ~~(7) the Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood;~~
- ~~(8) Parents Across America;~~
- ~~(9) the Environmental Influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO) program of the National Institutes of Health;~~
- ~~(10) the Maryland Association of County Health Officers;~~
- ~~(11) the Mental Health Association of Maryland;~~
- ~~(12) the Maryland Association of School Health Nurses;~~
- ~~(13) the occupational safety and health profession;~~
- ~~(14) the medical profession; and~~
- ~~(15) any other entity with relevant expertise or whose members will be impacted by the guidelines and procedures.~~

~~(b) On or before December 1, 2018, the Department shall submit an interim report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article,~~

~~the General Assembly on the development of the guidelines and procedures for the use of digital devices in public school classrooms.~~

SECTION ~~2~~ 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect ~~June~~ July 1, 2018.

Approved by the Governor, April 24, 2018.