

# HOUSE BILL 1028

F1, L1

0lr1899  
CF 0lr2029

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By: **Delegates Queen, Charkoudian, Fraser–Hidalgo, Gilchrist, Kelly, Lopez, Love, Mosby, Proctor, Reznik, Shetty, Smith, and Stewart**  
Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2020  
Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public and Nonpublic Schools – Electric Retractable Room Partitions – Model**  
3 **Safety Guidelines and Local Law**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Department of Education to develop, disseminate,  
5 and publish online model safety guidelines on the safe operation of electric  
6 retractable room partitions; authorizing the governing body of a county to enact a  
7 local law prohibiting school employees from operating an electric retractable room  
8 partition in a public or nonpublic school except under certain circumstances, and  
9 requiring any annual safety review, evaluation, or exercise for school employees in a  
10 certain school building to include certain information and demonstrations; defining  
11 certain terms; and generally relating to electric retractable room partitions and  
12 schools.

13 BY adding to  
14 Article – Education  
15 Section 7–446  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Education**

21 **7–446.**

22 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**  
23 **INDICATED.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(2) “ELECTRIC RETRACTABLE ROOM PARTITION” MEANS A ROOM**  
2 **PARTITION, DIVIDER, CURTAIN, OR ANY OTHER SIMILAR DEVICE THAT IS OPENED**  
3 **AND RETRACTED BY OPERATION OF AN ELECTRIC MOTOR.**

4           **(3) “SCHOOL EMPLOYEE” MEANS AN EMPLOYEE OF A PUBLIC OR**  
5 **NONPUBLIC SCHOOL.**

6           **(B) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:**

7           **(1) DEVELOP AND DISSEMINATE TO EACH COUNTY BOARD MODEL**  
8 **SAFETY GUIDELINES REGARDING THE OPERATION OF ELECTRIC RETRACTABLE**  
9 **ROOM PARTITIONS; AND**

10           **(2) PUBLISH THE MODEL SAFETY GUIDELINES ON THE**  
11 **DEPARTMENT’S WEBSITE.**

12           **(C) THE GOVERNING BODY OF A COUNTY MAY ENACT A LOCAL LAW TO:**

13           **(1) PROHIBIT A SCHOOL EMPLOYEE FROM OPERATING AN ELECTRIC**  
14 **RETRACTABLE ROOM PARTITION IN A SCHOOL BUILDING UNLESS:**

15           **(I) THE PARTITION INCLUDES A SAFETY SENSOR THAT**  
16 **AUTOMATICALLY STOPS THE MOVEMENT OF THE PARTITION WHEN A BODY PASSES**  
17 **BETWEEN THE LEADING EDGE AND A WALL, AN OPPOSING PARTITION, OR THE**  
18 **STACKING AREA OF THE PARTITION;**

19           **(II) NO STUDENTS ARE PRESENT IN THE SCHOOL BUILDING; OR**

20           **(III) THE ROOM OR AREA WHERE THE PARTITION IS LOCATED IS**  
21 **LOCKED OR OTHERWISE FREE OF OR INACCESSIBLE TO STUDENTS; AND**

22           **(2) REQUIRE ANY ANNUAL SAFETY REVIEW, EVALUATION, OR**  
23 **EXERCISE FOR SCHOOL EMPLOYEES IN A SCHOOL BUILDING WITH AN ELECTRIC**  
24 **RETRACTABLE ROOM PARTITION TO INCLUDE INFORMATION AND**  
25 **DEMONSTRATIONS, AS APPROPRIATE, REGARDING THE SAFE OPERATION OF THE**  
26 **ELECTRIC RETRACTABLE ROOM PARTITION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITEM (1) OF THIS**  
27 **SUBSECTION.**

28           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
29 1, 2020.