

# SENATE BILL 258

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By: **Senators Bailey, Beidle, Gallion, Ready, and Salling**

Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2020

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Schools – Electric Retractable Room Partitions – Operation**  
3 **Requirements**

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

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

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

18 **Article – Education**

19 **7–446.**

20 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “ELECTRIC RETRACTABLE ROOM PARTITION” MEANS**  
21 **A ROOM PARTITION, DIVIDER, CURTAIN, OR ANY OTHER SIMILAR DEVICE THAT IS**  
22 **OPENED AND RETRACTED BY OPERATION OF AN ELECTRIC MOTOR.**

23 **(B) A SCHOOL EMPLOYEE MAY NOT OPERATE AN ELECTRIC RETRACTABLE**  
24 **ROOM PARTITION IN A SCHOOL BUILDING UNLESS:**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(1) THE PARTITION INCLUDES A SAFETY SENSOR THAT**  
2 **AUTOMATICALLY STOPS THE MOVEMENT OF THE PARTITION WHEN A BODY PASSES**  
3 **BETWEEN THE LEADING EDGE AND A WALL, AN OPPOSING PARTITION, OR THE**  
4 **STACKING AREA OF THE PARTITION;**

5           **(2) NO STUDENTS ARE PRESENT IN THE SCHOOL BUILDING; OR**

6           **(3) THE ROOM OR AREA WHERE THE PARTITION IS LOCATED IS**  
7 **LOCKED OR OTHERWISE FREE OF OR INACCESSIBLE TO STUDENTS.**

8           **(C) ANY ANNUAL SAFETY REVIEW, EVALUATION, OR EXERCISE FOR SCHOOL**  
9 **EMPLOYEES IN A SCHOOL BUILDING WITH AN ELECTRIC RETRACTABLE ROOM**  
10 **PARTITION SHALL INCLUDE INFORMATION AND DEMONSTRATIONS, AS**  
11 **APPROPRIATE, REGARDING THE SAFE OPERATION OF THE ELECTRIC RETRACTABLE**  
12 **ROOM PARTITION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTIONS (B) AND (D) OF THIS**  
13 **SECTION.**

14           **(D) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP AND DISSEMINATE TO EACH**  
15 **COUNTY BOARD MODEL SAFETY GUIDELINES REGARDING THE OPERATION OF**  
16 **ELECTRIC RETRACTABLE ROOM PARTITIONS.**

17           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
18 1, 2020.