

HOUSE BILL 83

F1

(PRE-FILED)

1lr1392
CF SB 104

By: **Delegate Queen**

Requested: October 30, 2020

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2021

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

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

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

12 BY adding to
13 Article – Education
14 Section 7–447
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Education**

20 **7–447.**

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

23 **(2) “ELECTRIC RETRACTABLE ROOM PARTITION” MEANS A ROOM**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 PARTITION, DIVIDER, CURTAIN, OR ANY OTHER SIMILAR DEVICE THAT IS OPENED
2 AND RETRACTED BY OPERATION OF AN ELECTRIC MOTOR.

3 (3) "SCHOOL EMPLOYEE" MEANS AN EMPLOYEE OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL
4 OR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL.

5 (B) A SCHOOL EMPLOYEE MAY NOT OPERATE AN ELECTRIC RETRACTABLE
6 ROOM PARTITION IN A SCHOOL BUILDING UNLESS:

7 (1) THE PARTITION INCLUDES A SAFETY SENSOR THAT
8 AUTOMATICALLY STOPS THE MOVEMENT OF THE PARTITION WHEN A BODY PASSES
9 BETWEEN THE LEADING EDGE AND A WALL, AN OPPOSING PARTITION, OR THE
10 STACKING AREA OF THE PARTITION;

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

12 (3) THE ROOM OR AREA WHERE THE PARTITION IS LOCATED IS
13 LOCKED OR OTHERWISE FREE OF OR INACCESSIBLE TO STUDENTS.

14 (C) ANY ANNUAL SAFETY REVIEW, EVALUATION, OR EXERCISE FOR SCHOOL
15 EMPLOYEES IN A SCHOOL BUILDING WITH AN ELECTRIC RETRACTABLE ROOM
16 PARTITION SHALL INCLUDE INFORMATION AND DEMONSTRATIONS, AS
17 APPROPRIATE, REGARDING THE SAFE OPERATION OF THE ELECTRIC RETRACTABLE
18 ROOM PARTITION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTIONS (B) AND (D) OF THIS
19 SECTION.

20 (D) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

21 (1) DEVELOP AND DISSEMINATE TO EACH COUNTY BOARD AND EACH
22 NONPUBLIC SCHOOL MODEL SAFETY GUIDELINES REGARDING THE OPERATION OF
23 ELECTRIC RETRACTABLE ROOM PARTITIONS; AND

24 (2) PUBLISH THE MODEL SAFETY GUIDELINES ON ITS PUBLIC
25 WEBSITE.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
27 1, 2021.