

HOUSE BILL 573

F1

2lr1311

By: **Delegate Belcastro**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2022

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **School Wellness and Recess Grant Program – Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the School Wellness and Recess Grant Program; and
4 generally relating to the School Wellness and Recess Grant Program.

5 BY adding to

6 Article – Education

7 Section 7–129

8 Annotated Code of Maryland

9 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

10 Preamble

11 WHEREAS, Establishing healthy behaviors during childhood is easier and more
12 effective than trying to change unhealthy behaviors during adulthood; and

13 WHEREAS, Schools play a critical role in promoting the health and safety of young
14 people and helping them establish lifelong healthy behaviors; and

15 WHEREAS, A growing body of evidence suggests physical activity benefits
16 students by improving their memory, attention, and concentration, helping them stay
17 on–task in the classroom, reducing disruptive behavior in the classroom, and improving
18 their social and emotional development; now, therefore,

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

21 **Article – Education**

22 **7–129.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 **(2) “JUDY CENTER” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 5–230 OF THIS**
4 **ARTICLE.**

5 **(3) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE SCHOOL WELLNESS AND RECESS**
6 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

7 **(4) “RECESS” MEANS A REGULARLY SCHEDULED PERIOD IN THE**
8 **SCHOOL DAY FOR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND PLAY THAT IS MONITORED BY TRAINED**
9 **STAFF OR VOLUNTEERS.**

10 **(5) “WHOLE SCHOOL, WHOLE COMMUNITY, WHOLE CHILD (WSCC)**
11 **MODEL” INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING COMPONENTS:**

12 **(I) PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND ACTIVITY;**

13 **(II) PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT;**

14 **(III) NUTRITION ENVIRONMENT AND SERVICES;**

15 **(IV) HEALTH EDUCATION;**

16 **(V) HEALTH SERVICES;**

17 **(VI) SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL CLIMATE;**

18 **(VII) COUNSELING, PSYCHOLOGICAL, AND SOCIAL SERVICES;**

19 **(VIII) EMPLOYEE WELLNESS;**

20 **(IX) COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT; AND**

21 **(X) FAMILY ENGAGEMENT.**

22 **(B) (1) THERE IS A SCHOOL WELLNESS AND RECESS GRANT PROGRAM**
23 **IN THE STATE.**

24 **(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO:**

1 **(I) ENSURE THAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS, NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS,**
2 **AND JUDY CENTERS HAVE STRONG, COMPREHENSIVE, AND WRITTEN WELLNESS**
3 **POLICIES THAT ADDRESS THE WHOLE SCHOOL, WHOLE COMMUNITY, WHOLE CHILD**
4 **(WSCC) MODEL; AND**

5 **(II) ENCOURAGE STUDENTS IN PREKINDERGARTEN THROUGH**
6 **GRADE 12 TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN RECESS BY BEING PHYSICALLY ACTIVE AND**
7 **ENGAGED WITH THEIR PEERS IN ACTIVITIES OF THEIR CHOICE.**

8 **(C) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL IMPLEMENT AND ADMINISTER THE**
9 **PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION.**

10 **(2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL AWARD GRANTS FROM THE PROGRAM**
11 **TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS, NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS, AND JUDY CENTERS TO SUPPORT**
12 **EXISTING SCHOOL WELLNESS AND RECESS PROGRAMS.**

13 **(3) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL**
14 **PRIORITIZE GRANT AWARDS TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS, NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS, AND**
15 **JUDY CENTERS BASED ON:**

16 **(I) THE QUANTIFIABLE MEASURE OF NEED OF THE SCHOOL**
17 **OR CENTER;**

18 **(II) THE INCLUSION OF ALL STUDENTS IN THE SCHOOL OR**
19 **CENTER, INCLUDING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES AS DEFINED IN 45 C.F.R. §**
20 **84.3(J);**

21 **(III) WHETHER THE SCHOOL OR CENTER HAS A WRITTEN**
22 **WELLNESS POLICY THAT ADDRESSES THE WHOLE SCHOOL, WHOLE COMMUNITY,**
23 **WHOLE CHILD (WSCC) MODEL; AND**

24 **(IV) WHETHER THE SCHOOL OR CENTER WOULD PROVIDE**
25 **GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY AMONG THE GRANTEEES.**

26 **(D) THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN**
27 **APPROPRIATION OF \$500,000 TO THE PROGRAM.**

28 **(E) THE DEPARTMENT MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE**
29 **REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.**

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
31 July 1, 2022.