

SENATE BILL 680

M1, O4, O3

2lr2901
CF 2lr2899

By: **Senator Gallion**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2022

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State and Local Parks – Playground Accessibility – Communication Boards**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Natural Resources and local governing
4 bodies to construct a communication board in each public playground on or before a
5 certain date; providing for the funding of communication board construction; and
6 generally relating to playground communication boards.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
8 Article – Education
9 Section 1–101(a) and (d)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
13 Article – Natural Resources
14 Section 5–901(a) and (g)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

17 BY adding to
18 Article – Natural Resources
19 Section 5–2001 through 5–2003 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 20.
20 Playground Accessibility”
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

25 **Article – Education**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 1–101.

2 (a) In this article, unless the context requires otherwise, the following words have
3 the meanings indicated.

4 (d) “County board” means the board of education of a county and includes the
5 Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners.

6 **Article – Natural Resources**

7 5–901.

8 (a) In this subtitle the following terms have the meanings indicated.

9 (g) “Local governing body” means the Maryland–National Capital Park and
10 Planning Commission and the governing body of any county or Baltimore City.

11 **SUBTITLE 20. PLAYGROUND ACCESSIBILITY.**

12 **5–2001.**

13 **(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
14 **INDICATED.**

15 **(B) “COMMUNICATION BOARD” MEANS A DEVICE THAT DISPLAYS PHOTOS,**
16 **SYMBOLS, OR ILLUSTRATIONS TO ENABLE INDIVIDUALS WITH LIMITED LANGUAGE**
17 **SKILLS TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES AND COMMUNICATE.**

18 **(C) “COUNTY BOARD” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 1–101 OF THE**
19 **EDUCATION ARTICLE.**

20 **(D) “LOCAL GOVERNING BODY” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 5–901 OF**
21 **THIS TITLE.**

22 **5–2002.**

23 **ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2027, THE DEPARTMENT AND EACH LOCAL**
24 **GOVERNING BODY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF PLAYGROUNDS SHALL**
25 **CONSTRUCT A COMMUNICATION BOARD IN EACH PLAYGROUND UNDER ITS**
26 **JURISDICTION.**

27 **5–2003.**

28 **(A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL USE PROGRAM OPEN SPACE FUNDING**
29 **PROVIDED UNDER § 5–904 OF THIS TITLE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF**

1 COMMUNICATION BOARDS REQUIRED UNDER § 5-2002 OF THIS SUBTITLE IN
2 PLAYGROUNDS UNDER ITS JURISDICTION.

3 (B) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A
4 LOCAL GOVERNING BODY SHALL APPLY FOR PROGRAM OPEN SPACE FUNDING
5 UNDER § 5-905 OF THIS TITLE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF COMMUNICATION
6 BOARDS REQUIRED UNDER § 5-2002 OF THIS SUBTITLE IN PLAYGROUNDS UNDER
7 ITS JURISDICTION.

8 (2) FUNDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF COMMUNICATION BOARDS
9 REQUIRED UNDER § 5-2002 OF THIS SUBTITLE IN PLAYGROUNDS LOCATED ON
10 PUBLIC SCHOOL PROPERTY SHALL BE PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY BOARD.

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
12 October 1, 2022.