

SENATE BILL 856

F1, J2

2lr2805
CF 2lr2545

By: **Senator Eckardt**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2022

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Schools – Health Services – School Nurses**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring each county board of education to provide a certain nurse at
4 each public school; and generally relating to public schools and health services.

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
6 Article – Education
7 Section 7–401
8 Annotated Code of Maryland
9 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

12 **Article – Education**

13 7–401.

14 (a) With the assistance of the county health department, each county board shall
15 provide:

16 (1) Adequate school health services;

17 (2) Instruction in health education, including the importance of physical
18 activity in maintaining good health; [and]

19 (3) A healthful school environment; AND

20 (4) **A FULL–TIME REGISTERED NURSE IN EACH SCHOOL.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (b) The Department of Education and the Maryland Department of Health jointly
2 shall:

3 (1) Develop public standards and guidelines for school health programs;
4 and

5 (2) Offer assistance to the county boards and county health departments
6 in their implementation.

7 (c) (1) (i) Each county board shall designate a school health services
8 program coordinator.

9 (ii) A county board may authorize the county health department to
10 designate the school health services program coordinator.

11 (2) The school health services program coordinator shall:

12 (i) Implement State and local health policies in the public schools;

13 (ii) Ensure that public schools adhere to local health services
14 guidelines; and

15 (iii) Communicate State and local health policies to the parents and
16 guardians of public school students.

17 (3) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, the
18 county board shall grant the school health services program coordinator the authority to
19 carry out the provisions of this subsection.

20 (ii) The county board shall consult with a county superintendent
21 before any change in the hiring or termination of personnel in connection with a school
22 health services program.

23 (4) The Department of Education shall conduct at least two meetings
24 annually with all school health services program coordinators in the State.

25 (d) On or before December 1, 2015, and every 5 years thereafter, the Department
26 shall report to the Governor and, subject to § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, to
27 the General Assembly a summary of the information reported to the State Superintendent
28 during the COMAR certification process.

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