

# SENATE BILL 799

F1, J1  
SB 162/22 – EHE

3lr2156

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By: **Senator Hester**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2023

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Schools – Cyber Safety Guide – Development, Usage, and Reporting**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Department of Education, the Behavioral Health  
4 Administration within the Maryland Department of Health, the Maryland Center  
5 for School Safety, and the Department of Information Technology jointly to develop  
6 and publish a cyber safety guide to be made available in public schools beginning in  
7 a certain school year; requiring the cyber safety guide to be developed in consultation  
8 with certain professionals; requiring the cyber safety guide to be posted on the  
9 websites of the State Department of Education and the Maryland Center for School  
10 Safety and distributed to each county board of education; and generally relating to  
11 the development and usage of a cyber safety guide in public schools.

12 BY adding to  
13 Article – Education  
14 Section 7–452  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2022 Replacement Volume)

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 **7–452.**

21 **(A) (1) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2024, THE DEPARTMENT, THE**  
22 **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION WITHIN THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF**  
23 **HEALTH, THE MARYLAND CENTER FOR SCHOOL SAFETY, AND THE DEPARTMENT**  
24 **OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY JOINTLY SHALL DEVELOP AND PUBLISH A CYBER**  
25 **SAFETY GUIDE TO BE MADE AVAILABLE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS BEGINNING IN THE**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **2024–2025 SCHOOL YEAR.**

2 **(2) THE CYBER SAFETY GUIDE SHALL CONTAIN INFORMATION AND**  
3 **GUIDANCE ON SAFE INTERNET, SOCIAL MEDIA, AND TECHNOLOGY USAGE FOR:**

4 **(I) STUDENTS IN PREKINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 12;**

5 **(II) PARENTS; AND**

6 **(III) SCHOOL EMPLOYEES WHO INTERACT WITH STUDENTS.**

7 **(B) THE CYBER SAFETY GUIDE UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL:**

8 **(1) BE DEVELOPED IN CONSULTATION WITH PROFESSIONALS WHO**  
9 **SPECIALIZE IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND CHILD PSYCHOLOGY; AND**

10 **(2) INCLUDE AGE-APPROPRIATE INFORMATION AND BEST**  
11 **PRACTICES THAT:**

12 **(I) ALLOW STUDENTS TO UNDERSTAND THE DEVELOPMENT**  
13 **AND IMPACTS OF A STUDENT’S DIGITAL FOOTPRINT; AND**

14 **(II) PROMOTE GOOD DECISION MAKING WHEN USING ONLINE**  
15 **MEDIA AND RESPONSIBLE INTERNET USE THROUGH PREVENTION AND**  
16 **MANAGEMENT OF:**

17 **1. CYBERBULLYING;**

18 **2. CONTENT DEPICTING OR ENCOURAGING SUICIDE OR**  
19 **SELF-HARM;**

20 **3. HATE SPEECH;**

21 **4. SEXUALLY GRAPHIC CONTENT;**

22 **5. SALES OF ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES;**

23 **6. IDENTITY THEFT AND CYBERSECURITY THREATS;**

24 **7. DISSEMINATION OF FALSE INFORMATION; AND**

25 **8. NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF SOCIAL MEDIA AND**  
26 **TECHNOLOGY USAGE ON BEHAVIORAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH.**

1           **(C) THE CYBER SAFETY GUIDE SHALL BE:**

2                   **(1) POSTED ON THE WEBSITES OF THE DEPARTMENT AND THE**  
3 **MARYLAND CENTER FOR SCHOOL SAFETY; AND**

4                   **(2) DISTRIBUTED TO EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL.**

5           **(D) THE CYBER SAFETY GUIDE MAY INCORPORATE OTHER STATE,**  
6 **FEDERAL, NONPROFIT, OR PUBLIC RESOURCES.**

7           **(E) THE STATE BOARD MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS**  
8 **SECTION.**

9           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before July 1, 2024, the  
10 State Department of Education, the Behavioral Health Administration within the  
11 Maryland Department of Health, the Maryland Center for School Safety, and the  
12 Department of Information Technology jointly shall report to the General Assembly, in  
13 accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, on the development and usage  
14 of the cyber safety guide for students, parents, and teachers.

15           SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
16 1, 2023.