

HOUSE BILL 1102

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4lr1421

By: **Delegate Wolek**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2024

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Green Schools – Website Update and Maintenance**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor
4 Education to use a certain appropriation to update, by a certain date, and maintain
5 a certain website dedicated to green schools and becoming certified as a green school;
6 requiring county boards of education to prominently display a link to the website on
7 the county board’s website and circulate certain information to teachers and staff;
8 and generally relating to green schools.

9 BY adding to

10 Article – Education

11 Section 7–117.1

12 Annotated Code of Maryland

13 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Education**

17 **7–117.1.**

18 **(A) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE**
19 **ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF \$7,000 TO THE MARYLAND**
20 **ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND OUTDOOR EDUCATION TO BE USED BY THE**
21 **ASSOCIATION TO UPDATE ITS MARYLAND GREEN SCHOOLS WEBSITE IN**
22 **ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION BY JANUARY 1, 2026.**

23 **(B) (1) THE WEBSITE SHALL BE UPDATED TO CONTAIN THE**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 INFORMATION LISTED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.

2 (2) THE WEBSITE SHALL INCLUDE A NOVICE SECTION DEDICATED TO
3 INTRODUCING SCHOOLS TO THE CONCEPT OF BECOMING A GREEN SCHOOL,
4 INCLUDING:

5 (I) EXAMPLES OF SIMPLE GREEN ACTIVITIES THAT:

6 1. ARE ALIGNED WITH THE MARYLAND
7 ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY STANDARDS; AND

8 2. CERTIFIED GREEN SCHOOLS HAVE COMPLETED OR
9 ARE COMPLETING IN THE STATE, INCLUDING CORRESPONDING PHOTOGRAPHS AND
10 ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY STANDARDS FOR THE ACTIVITIES; AND

11 (II) ACTIVITIES, PROGRAMMING, PEDAGOGY, AND OTHER
12 INITIAL ACTIONS THAT WILL ENCOURAGE SCHOOLS TO BEGIN GREEN ACTIVITIES AT
13 THEIR SCHOOL.

14 (3) THE WEBSITE SHALL INCLUDE AN ON-RAMP SECTION DEDICATED
15 TO HELPING SCHOOLS TRANSITION FROM STAND-ALONE GREEN ACTIVITIES TO
16 MORE COMPLICATED GREEN ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF
17 OUTLINED PLANS FOR BECOMING A CERTIFIED GREEN SCHOOL, INCLUDING:

18 (I) EXAMPLES OF MORE COMPLICATED GREEN ACTIVITIES AND
19 PROJECTS, INCLUDING ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS THAT HAVE SUSTAINABILITY
20 ASPECTS OR INVOLVE MULTIYEAR IMPLEMENTATION, THAT SCHOOLS HAVE
21 COMPLETED OR ARE COMPLETING IN THE STATE AND CORRESPONDING
22 PHOTOGRAPHS AND ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY STANDARDS FOR THE ACTIVITIES
23 AND PROJECTS; AND

24 (II) STEP-BY-STEP GUIDANCE ON HOW TO CREATE A PLAN FOR
25 BECOMING A CERTIFIED GREEN SCHOOL.

26 (4) THE WEBSITE SHALL INCLUDE AN APPLICATION SECTION
27 DEDICATED TO SCHOOLS THAT ARE READY TO APPLY TO BECOME CERTIFIED GREEN
28 SCHOOLS, INCLUDING:

29 (I) TIMELINES WITH MILESTONES AND DEADLINES;

30 (II) BLANK SAMPLE APPLICATIONS;

31 (III) APPLICATION GUIDELINES FOR EACH SECTION OF THE

1 APPLICATION;

2 (IV) EXAMPLES OF APPROVED GREEN SCHOOL APPLICATIONS
3 FROM:

4 1. URBAN, SUBURBAN, AND RURAL AREAS OF THE
5 STATE; AND

6 2. EACH COUNTY;

7 (V) RECORDED WEBINARS ON HOW TO SUCCESSFULLY
8 COMPLETE THE APPLICATION;

9 (VI) NAMES AND E-MAIL ADDRESSES OF TEACHERS AND STAFF
10 AT CERTIFIED GREEN SCHOOLS WHO CAN BE CONTACTED FOR GUIDANCE OR
11 INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR GREEN SCHOOL PRACTICES;

12 (VII) AN UP-TO-DATE LIST OF FUNDING SOURCES SCHOOLS CAN
13 APPLY TO FOR ASSISTANCE WITH GREEN SCHOOL-RELATED EFFORTS, INCLUDING
14 FUNDS AVAILABLE THROUGH:

15 1. INDIVIDUALS;

16 2. FOUNDATIONS;

17 3. NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS; AND

18 4. GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS;

19 (VIII) FOR EACH FUNDING SOURCE LISTED UNDER ITEM (VII) OF
20 THIS PARAGRAPH:

21 1. A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE FUNDING SOURCE
22 MAY BE USED;

23 2. THE AMOUNT OF THE FUNDING SOURCE; AND

24 3. DEADLINES FOR EACH FUNDING SOURCE;

25 (IX) NAMES AND CONTACT INFORMATION OF INDIVIDUALS WHO
26 CAN ASSIST WITH QUESTIONS REGARDING APPLYING FOR GRANTS FOR GREEN
27 SCHOOL-RELATED EFFORTS; AND

1 **(X) PLANNED OR SCHEDULED GREEN SCHOOL PROFESSIONAL**
2 **DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES.**

3 **(5) (I) EACH SECTION OF THE WEBSITE REQUIRED UNDER**
4 **PARAGRAPHS (2), (3), AND (4) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE CONTACT**
5 **INFORMATION OF INDIVIDUALS, INCLUDING COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY**
6 **SPECIALISTS, EXPERTS FROM FACILITIES AWARDED THE MARYLAND GREEN**
7 **CENTER AWARD, AND GREEN LEADERS, WHO CAN:**

8 **1. FOR THE NOVICE SECTION, ADVISE SCHOOLS ON**
9 **START-UP GREEN ACTIVITIES AND FUNDING AND GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**
10 **AVAILABLE FOR GREENING THE SCHOOL;**

11 **2. FOR THE ON-RAMP SECTION, ADVISE SCHOOLS ON**
12 **HOW TO CREATE MORE COMPLICATED GREEN ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS THAT WILL**
13 **SUPPORT AND CONTRIBUTE TO A FUTURE APPLICATION FOR BECOMING CERTIFIED**
14 **AS A GREEN SCHOOL; AND**

15 **3. FOR THE APPLICATION SECTION, PROVIDE**
16 **ASSISTANCE WITH THE APPLICATION PROCESS.**

17 **(II) THE CONTACT INFORMATION UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF**
18 **THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL INCLUDE:**

19 **1. THE NAME, TELEPHONE NUMBER, AND DIRECT**
20 **E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL LISTED;**

21 **2. FOR THE NOVICE SECTION, THE TYPES OF ACTIVITIES**
22 **AND FUNDING AND GRANT OPPORTUNITIES EACH INDIVIDUAL LISTED CAN ASSIST**
23 **WITH;**

24 **3. FOR THE ON-RAMP SECTION, THE TYPES OF**
25 **ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS EACH INDIVIDUAL LISTED CAN ASSIST WITH; AND**

26 **4. FOR THE APPLICATION SECTION, THE PORTION OF**
27 **THE APPLICATION PROCESS EACH INDIVIDUAL LISTED CAN ASSIST WITH.**

28 **(C) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT THE WEBSITE BE**
29 **UPDATED AT LEAST ONCE A MONTH.**

30 **(D) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL:**

31 **(1) PROMINENTLY DISPLAY A LINK ON THE COUNTY BOARD'S**

1 WEBSITE TO THE WEBSITE UPDATED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION; AND

2 (2) WITHIN THE FIRST 2 WEEKS OF THE FIRST AND THIRD QUARTER
3 OF EACH SCHOOL YEAR, CIRCULATE INFORMATION TO TEACHERS AND STAFF ABOUT
4 THE GREEN SCHOOL PROGRAM AND THE WEBSITE UPDATED UNDER SUBSECTION (B)
5 OF THIS SECTION.

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
7 1, 2024.