

# SENATE BILL 851

F1, O3, O4

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CF HB 694

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By: **Senators Zucker, Augustine, and Lewis Young**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Schools – Individuals With Disabilities – Main Entrance Accessibility and**  
3 **Emergency Planning**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring each county board of education to publish on its website and  
5 report to the General Assembly on the number of main entrances to public school  
6 buildings in the county that are not accessible for individuals with disabilities and  
7 not in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act; requiring each local  
8 school system to send a copy of the local school system’s emergency plan to the State  
9 Department of Education; requiring the Department to report certain information to  
10 the General Assembly on or before a certain date each year; and generally relating  
11 to school building main entrance accessibility and emergency planning for  
12 individuals with disabilities.

13 BY adding to

14 Article – Education

15 Section 7–136

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

19 Article – Education

20 Section 7–435

21 Annotated Code of Maryland

22 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 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**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **7-136.**

2 **ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2025, AND EACH SEPTEMBER 1 THEREAFTER,**  
3 **EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL PUBLISH ON ITS WEBSITE AND REPORT, IN**  
4 **ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE**  
5 **GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE NUMBER OF MAIN ENTRANCES TO PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
6 **BUILDINGS IN THE COUNTY THAT ARE NOT ACCESSIBLE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH**  
7 **DISABILITIES AND NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE FEDERAL AMERICANS WITH**  
8 **DISABILITIES ACT.**

9 7-435.

10 (a) On or before December 1, 2017, the Department shall, in consultation with  
11 disability advocacy groups, update the Emergency Planning Guidelines for Local School  
12 Systems and Schools to accommodate, safeguard, and evacuate students, staff, and visitors  
13 with disabilities on public school grounds in accordance with the federal Americans with  
14 Disabilities Act.

15 (b) **(1)** On or before July 1, 2018, each local school system shall update the local  
16 school system's emergency plan to comply with the update of the Department's guidelines  
17 and regulations under subsection (a) of this section.

18 **(2) (I) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2025, AND EACH**  
19 **SEPTEMBER 1 THEREAFTER, EACH LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM SHALL SEND A COPY OF**  
20 **THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM'S EMERGENCY PLAN TO THE DEPARTMENT.**

21 **(II) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2025, AND EACH DECEMBER**  
22 **1 THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:**

23 **1. ANALYZE THE EMERGENCY PLANS RECEIVED UNDER**  
24 **SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH; AND**

25 **2. REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN**  
26 **ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON WHETHER**  
27 **EACH LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S**  
28 **GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.**

29 (c) If a student with an IEP requires specific accommodations for evacuation in  
30 an emergency, the student's IEP shall include accommodations for the student during an  
31 emergency.

32 (d) If a student with a 504 plan requires specific accommodations for evacuation  
33 in an emergency, the student's 504 team shall discuss and address the student's needs as  
34 necessary.

1           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
2   1, 2025.