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PARLIAMENTARIAN

Ways and Means Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 5, 2020

House Bill 277 State Department of Education - Guidelines on Trauma-Informed Approach

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to present House Bill 277 State Department of Education - Guidelines on Trauma-Informed Approach, which establishes the Trauma-Informed Schools initiative in the State Department of Education. Students in schools all across Maryland are facing trauma, including bullying, family separation, homelessness, violence, and a myriad of factors that impact their ability to learn. It's critical that our schools, teachers, and administrators are supported to be able to recognize and respond to trauma.

This legislation instructs the Maryland Department of Education to work with the Department of Health to issue guidelines and develop a Trauma Informed Schools Expansion program to offer training with resources and information for teachers and parents pertaining to the trauma-informed approach.

Our schools should be a safe space, where children can get the help they need to succeed. Trauma can impact a student's academics, social behavior, and relationships. It's critical that Maryland continues to support students who have experienced trauma in their lives, and that is what this program aims to do.

I urge the committee to give a favorable report for **House Bill 277**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jheanelle Wilkins', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins