

HOUSE BILL 612

F1
HB 74/24 – W&M

5lr1969

By: **Delegates Guyton, Lehman, Attar, Buckel, Crosby, Fair, Foley, Forbes, Griffith, Hornberger, Kaufman, Korman, R. Lewis, Miller, Patterson, Pena–Melnyk, Ruth, Taveras, Terrasa, Vogel, Wilkins, Wolek, Woorman, and Wu**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2025

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Schools – Lifesaver Schools Program – Establishment**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Lifesaver Schools Program to recognize public schools
4 that provide health and safety training to students and school personnel; and
5 generally relating to the Lifesaver Schools Program.

6 BY adding to

7 Article – Education

8 Section 7–136

9 Annotated Code of Maryland

10 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

13 **Article – Education**

14 **7–136.**

15 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
16 **INDICATED.**

17 **(2) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE LIFESAVER SCHOOLS PROGRAM.**

18 **(3) “THERAPY DOG” MEANS A DOG THAT IS:**

19 **(I) TRAINED TO PROVIDE AFFECTION AND COMFORT TO**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 CHILDREN WHO NEED EMOTIONAL SUPPORT IN A SCHOOL SETTING; AND

2 (II) CERTIFIED OR REGISTERED AS A THERAPY DOG.

3 (B) (1) THERE IS A LIFESAVER SCHOOLS PROGRAM.

4 (2) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO RECOGNIZE PUBLIC
5 SCHOOLS THAT PROVIDE HEALTH AND SAFETY TRAINING TO STUDENTS AND
6 SCHOOL PERSONNEL.

7 (C) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.

8 (2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DESIGNATE AND PUBLICLY RECOGNIZE
9 A PUBLIC SCHOOL AS A LIFESAVER SCHOOL IF THE SCHOOL APPLIES AND MEETS
10 THE CRITERIA FOR A LIFESAVER SCHOOL ADOPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN
11 ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION.

12 (D) (1) AT MINIMUM, THE DEPARTMENT'S CRITERIA FOR A LIFESAVER
13 SCHOOL SHALL REQUIRE A PUBLIC SCHOOL TO:

14 (I) OFFER TO STUDENTS:

15 1. EVIDENCE-BASED TRAINING ON FIRST AID;

16 2. A MENTAL HEALTH WELLNESS PROGRAM OR A PEER
17 MENTORING PROGRAM; AND

18 3. A SCHOOLWIDE ASSEMBLY ON MENTAL HEALTH
19 WELLNESS AND RESOURCES;

20 (II) PROVIDE SERVICE HOURS TO STUDENTS FOR
21 PARTICIPATING IN HEALTH AND SAFETY ACTIVITIES;

22 (III) 1. OFFER TO SCHOOL PERSONNEL AS PROFESSIONAL
23 DEVELOPMENT A MENTAL HEALTH WELLNESS PROGRAM OR TRAINING ON FIRST
24 AID; AND

25 2. AUTHORIZE SCHOOL PERSONNEL TO PARTICIPATE IN
26 THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DURING SCHOOL HOURS, EARN ADDITIONAL
27 COMPENSATION FOR PARTICIPATION, OR RECEIVE CONTINUING EDUCATION
28 CREDITS FOR PARTICIPATION;

29 (IV) ESTABLISH ON THE SCHOOL'S WEBSITE AN EASILY
30 ACCESSIBLE WEBPAGE THAT INCLUDES RESOURCES FOR A MENTAL HEALTH

1 WELLNESS PROGRAM OR TRAINING ON FIRST AID; AND

2 (v) OFFER TO THE COMMUNITY AN EDUCATIONAL ASSEMBLY
3 ON MENTAL HEALTH WELLNESS AND RESOURCES.

4 (2) A LIFESAVER SCHOOL MAY UTILIZE A CERTIFIED THERAPY DOG
5 PROGRAM IN THE SCHOOL.

6 (E) A PUBLIC SCHOOL MAY PARTNER WITH THE COUNTY BOARD TO FULFILL
7 THE DEPARTMENT'S CRITERIA TO QUALIFY AS A LIFESAVER SCHOOL.

8 (F) ONCE EVERY 4 YEARS, A LIFESAVER SCHOOL IS REQUIRED TO REAPPLY
9 TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR APPROVAL TO MAINTAIN THE LIFESAVER SCHOOL
10 DESIGNATION.

11 (G) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS
12 SECTION.

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
14 1, 2025.