

SENATE BILL 948

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5lr3012
CF 5lr3013

By: **Senator Ready**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Children – Parental Rights – Educational Rights**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring each county board of education, in consultation with certain
4 individuals, to develop and implement a certain policy to promote parental
5 involvement in students' education; establishing a complaint and appeals process for
6 violations of a certain policy; and generally relating to the policy promoting the
7 involvement of parents in children's education.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Education

10 Section 7–136

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Education**

16 **7–136.**

17 **(A) (1) EACH COUNTY BOARD, IN CONSULTATION WITH PARENTS,**
18 **TEACHERS, AND SCHOOL PERSONNEL, SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A POLICY**
19 **TO PROMOTE THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE PARENTS IN THE EDUCATION OF STUDENTS**
20 **IN THE COUNTY.**

21 **(2) THE POLICY DEVELOPED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL**
22 **INCLUDE A PLAN FOR:**

23 **(I) INCREASING PARENT PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOLS; AND**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(II) IMPROVING PARENT AND TEACHER COOPERATION IN AREAS RELATING TO HOMEWORK, ATTENDANCE, AND DISCIPLINE.

(3) THE POLICY DEVELOPED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE PROCEDURES FOR:

(I) PARENTS TO REVIEW AND EXAMINE ALL CURRICULA AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS BEING TAUGHT TO A STUDENT, INCLUDING PROVIDING A MEANS TO READ AND REVIEW OR COPY AND RECORD, AT COST, ALL CURRICULA, INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS, AND ANY TEACHER TRAINING MATERIALS USED BY THE STUDENT'S TEACHER BY ANY OF THE FOLLOWING METHODS:

1. PUBLICATION ON A PUBLICLY AVAILABLE WEBSITE;
- OR
2. A WRITTEN COPY PROVIDED TO PARENTS ON REQUEST;

(II) PARENTS TO BE INFORMED ON THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF ALL SCHOOL CLUBS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES;

(III) PARENTS TO OBJECT AND WITHDRAW THE PARENTS' STUDENT FROM ANY:

1. SCHOOL CLUB OR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY;
2. UNIT OF INSTRUCTION IN THE CLASSROOM; OR
3. PRESENTATION OR SCHOOL ASSEMBLY; AND

(IV) OBTAINING PARENTAL CONSENT BEFORE A STUDENT USES GENDER PRONOUNS THAT DO NOT MATCH WITH THE STUDENT'S BIOLOGICAL SEX.

(4) THE POLICY DEVELOPED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE:

(I) NOTICE FROM A SCHOOL AT LEAST 5 DAYS IN ADVANCE OF, AND THE PROCESS FOR OBTAINING PARENTAL CONSENT FOR, PLANNED INSTRUCTION ON OR ATTENDANCE AT A PRESENTATION ABOUT STUDYING ANY TOPIC COVERED IN FAMILY LIFE AND HUMAN SEXUALITY;

(II) A PROCESS FOR A PARENT TO WITHDRAW THE PARENT'S STUDENT FROM SPECIFIC INSTRUCTION OR A PRESENTATION IN SCHOOL THAT THE PARENT BELIEVES MIGHT BE HARMFUL TO THE STUDENT;

(III) PARENTAL ACCESS TO ALL WRITTEN AND ELECTRONIC RECORDS CONCERNING A STUDENT THAT ARE CONTROLLED OR IN POSSESSION OF THE SCHOOL, THE COUNTY BOARD, OR AN OUTSIDE ORGANIZATION CONTRACTED TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO STUDENTS AT THE SCHOOL; AND

(IV) A PROHIBITION ON TEACHERS AND OTHER SCHOOL PERSONNEL WITHHOLDING OR CONCEALING INFORMATION FROM PARENTS, INCLUDING INFORMATION RELATING TO A STUDENT'S:

1. CURRICULAR OR EXTRACURRICULAR PROJECTS, ASSIGNMENTS, OR ACTIVITIES; OR

2. PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, OR MENTAL HEALTH.

(B) A PARENT MAY FILE A WRITTEN COMPLAINT FOR A VIOLATION OF THE POLICY UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.

(C) ON RECEIPT OF A COMPLAINT UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT SHALL:

(1) INVESTIGATE THE COMPLAINT; AND

(2) WITHIN 14 DAYS AFTER RECEIVING THE COMPLAINT, PROVIDE A WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE COMPLAINANT DESCRIBING THE ACTIONS BEING TAKEN BY THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM OR THE REMEDY BEING PROPOSED.

(D) (1) (I) A PARENT MAY APPEAL THE DECISION OF THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION TO THE COUNTY BOARD WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER RECEIVING THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT'S RESPONSE.

(II) AN APPEAL UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL CONTAIN:

1. DETAILS OF THE ALLEGED VIOLATION FROM THE COMPLAINT FILED WITH THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT;

2. A COPY OF THE COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT'S RESPONSE; AND

1 **3. THE REASONS WHY THE PARENT FINDS THE COUNTY**
2 **SUPERINTENDENT'S RESPONSE INSUFFICIENT.**

3 **(2) A COUNTY BOARD SHALL APPOINT A COMMITTEE TO ADDRESS**
4 **APPEALS UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.**

5 **(3) WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER RECEIPT OF AN APPEAL UNDER**
6 **PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE COMMITTEE SHALL PUBLISH A WRITTEN**
7 **REPORT CONTAINING ANY FINDINGS OF FACT AND RECOMMENDED ACTIONS FOR**
8 **THE COUNTY BOARD.**

9 **(4) (I) FOR EACH APPEAL, THE COUNTY BOARD SHALL VOTE TO**
10 **ACCEPT OR REJECT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE.**

11 **(II) THE DECISION OF THE COUNTY BOARD REGARDING AN**
12 **APPEAL IS FINAL.**

13 **(E) (1) A PARENT MAY BRING AN ACTION IN A COURT OF APPROPRIATE**
14 **JURISDICTION AGAINST A COUNTY BOARD FOR ANY CONTINUING VIOLATIONS OF**
15 **THE POLICY UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.**

16 **(2) IN AN ACTION BROUGHT UNDER THIS SUBSECTION, A COURT MAY**
17 **GRANT APPROPRIATE RELIEF.**

18 **(3) AN ACTION UNDER THIS SUBSECTION MAY BE BROUGHT ONLY**
19 **AFTER THE PARENT HAS EXHAUSTED ALL ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES AVAILABLE**
20 **UNDER SUBSECTIONS (B), (C), AND (D) OF THIS SECTION.**

21 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July**
22 **1, 2025.**