

HOUSE BILL 522

F1
HB 878/23 – W&M

4lr0740
CF SB 492

By: **Delegates D. Jones and Fair**

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2024

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Schools – Student Telehealth Appointments – Policy and Access**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring each county board of education to establish a policy to
4 accommodate students who need to participate in telehealth appointments during
5 the school day; requiring each public middle and high school to designate a space
6 that meets certain requirements for student telehealth appointments; and generally
7 relating to student access to telehealth in schools.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Education

10 Section 4–142

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 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 **4–142.**

17 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “TELEHEALTH” MEANS A MODE OF DELIVERING**
18 **HEALTH CARE SERVICES THROUGH THE USE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**
19 **TECHNOLOGIES BY A HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER TO A PATIENT AT A DIFFERENT**
20 **PHYSICAL LOCATION THAN THE HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER.**

21 **(B) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH A POLICY TO ACCOMMODATE**
22 **STUDENTS WHO NEED TO PARTICIPATE IN TELEHEALTH APPOINTMENTS**
23 **SCHEDULED DURING THE SCHOOL DAY.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(C) THE POLICY ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION SHALL REQUIRE EACH MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL TO:

(1) DESIGNATE A SPACE FOR STUDENT TELEHEALTH APPOINTMENTS THAT:

(I) IS A PRIVATE SPACE IN THE SCHOOL;

(II) HAS INTERNET ACCESS;

(III) INCLUDES AT LEAST ONE SEATING OPTION WITH A FLAT SURFACE AND ELECTRICAL OUTLET NEARBY TO ACCOMMODATE PLACEMENT OF A LAPTOP DEVICE; AND

(IV) IS NOT A BATHROOM OR CLOSET; AND

(2) IMPLEMENT MEASURES TO ENSURE THE SAFETY AND PRIVACY OF A STUDENT PARTICIPATING IN A TELEHEALTH APPOINTMENT.

(D) EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL ENSURE THAT THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM:

(1) PUBLISHES THE STUDENT TELEHEALTH POLICY IN THE STUDENT HANDBOOK; AND

(2) MAKES SCHOOL PERSONNEL AWARE OF STUDENT TELEHEALTH POLICY OBJECTIVES AND REQUIREMENTS.

(E) ON REQUEST, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO A COUNTY BOARD TO ESTABLISH THE STUDENT TELEHEALTH POLICY REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION.

(F) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO REQUIRE A SCHOOL TO CONSTRUCT AN ADDITION OR A NEW SPACE TO A SCHOOL BUILDING TO PROVIDE A PRIVATE SPACE TO COMPLY WITH THE STUDENT TELEHEALTH POLICY REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION.

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