

HOUSE BILL 694

F1, O3, O4

5lr1924
CF 5lr2550

By: **Delegates Kaufman, Addison, Allen, Boyce, Feldmark, Guyton, Lopez, McComas, Palakovich Carr, Phillips, Ruth, Schindler, Shetty, Solomon, Taveras, Terrasa, Wims, and Wolek**

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2025

Assigned to: Ways and Means

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**

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.