

# SENATE BILL 223

F1, J1, O1

9lr2314  
CF 9lr1143

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By: **Senators Nathan–Pulliam, Carter, Feldman, Hayes, Kelley, and McCray**

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2019

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Department of Education – Guidelines on Trauma–Informed Approach**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Trauma–Informed Schools Initiative in the State  
4 Department of Education; requiring the State Department of Education, in  
5 consultation with the Maryland Department of Health and the Department of  
6 Human Services, to develop certain guidelines on a certain trauma–informed  
7 approach, work with certain stakeholders and content experts to develop a certain  
8 training, and offer the training to certain staff at each local school system; requiring  
9 the State Department of Education to distribute certain guidelines to each local  
10 school system and to develop a certain website; requiring the State Department of  
11 Education, in consultation with the Maryland Department of Health and the  
12 Department of Human Services, to establish the Trauma–Informed Schools  
13 Expansion Program; stating the purpose of the Program; requiring the State  
14 Department of Education to select certain schools to voluntarily participate in the  
15 Program on or before a certain date; requiring the State Department of Education to  
16 take certain actions in implementing the Program; requiring the State Department  
17 of Education, in consultation with the Maryland Department of Health and the  
18 Department of Human Services, to study certain matters at the end of certain school  
19 years; requiring the State Department of Education to report its findings to the  
20 Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date for a certain number  
21 of years; establishing the Trauma–Informed Schools Expansion Program Fund as a  
22 special, nonlapsing fund; specifying the purpose of the Fund; requiring the State  
23 Department of Education to administer the Fund; requiring the State Treasurer to  
24 hold the Fund and the Comptroller to account for the Fund; specifying the contents  
25 of the Fund; specifying the purpose for which the Fund may be used; requiring  
26 interest earnings of the Fund to be credited to the Fund; exempting the Fund from a  
27 certain provision of law requiring interest earnings on State money to accrue to the  
28 General Fund of the State; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the  
29 Trauma–Informed Schools Initiative, Trauma–Informed Schools Expansion  
30 Program, and Trauma–Informed Schools Expansion Program Fund.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 BY adding to  
2 Article – Education  
3 Section 7–427.1  
4 Annotated Code of Maryland  
5 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

6 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
7 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
8 Section 6–226(a)(2)(i)  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
13 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)112. and 113.  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

16 BY adding to  
17 Article – State Finance and Procurement  
18 Section 6–226(a)(2)(ii)114.  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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

23 **Article – Education**

24 **7–427.1.**

25 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**  
26 **INDICATED.**

27 **(2) “FUND” MEANS THE TRAUMA–INFORMED SCHOOLS EXPANSION**  
28 **PROGRAM FUND.**

29 **(3) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE TRAUMA–INFORMED SCHOOLS**  
30 **EXPANSION PROGRAM.**

31 **(4) “TRAUMA–INFORMED APPROACH” MEANS A METHOD FOR**  
32 **UNDERSTANDING AND RESPONDING TO AN INDIVIDUAL WITH SYMPTOMS OF**  
33 **CHRONIC INTERPERSONAL TRAUMA OR TRAUMATIC STRESS.**

34 **(5) “TRAUMA–INFORMED SCHOOL” MEANS A SCHOOL THAT:**

1                   **(I) ACKNOWLEDGES THE WIDESPREAD IMPACT OF TRAUMA**  
2 **AND UNDERSTANDS THE POTENTIAL PATHS FOR RECOVERY;**

3                   **(II) RECOGNIZES THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF TRAUMA IN**  
4 **STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND STAFF;**

5                   **(III) INTEGRATES INFORMATION ABOUT TRAUMA INTO**  
6 **POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND PRACTICES; AND**

7                   **(IV) ACTIVELY RESISTS RETRAUMATIZING A STUDENT,**  
8 **TEACHER, OR STAFF MEMBER WHO HAS EXPERIENCED TRAUMA.**

9           **(B) (1) THERE IS A TRAUMA-INFORMED SCHOOLS INITIATIVE IN THE**  
10 **DEPARTMENT.**

11                   **(2) THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE MARYLAND**  
12 **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, SHALL:**

13                   **(I) DEVELOP GUIDELINES ON A TRAUMA-INFORMED**  
14 **APPROACH THAT WILL ASSIST SCHOOLS WITH:**

15                           **1. IMPLEMENTING A COMPREHENSIVE**  
16 **TRAUMA-INFORMED POLICY AT THE SCHOOL;**

17                           **2. THE IDENTIFICATION OF A STUDENT, TEACHER, OR**  
18 **STAFF MEMBER WHO HAS EXPERIENCED TRAUMA;**

19                           **3. THE APPROPRIATE MANNER FOR RESPONDING TO A**  
20 **STUDENT, TEACHER, OR STAFF MEMBER WHO HAS EXPERIENCED TRAUMA;**

21                           **4. FOR SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN THE HANDLE WITH**  
22 **CARE PROGRAM, THE APPROPRIATE MANNER FOR RESPONDING TO A STUDENT WHO**  
23 **IS IDENTIFIED AS A "HANDLE WITH CARE" STUDENT; AND**

24                           **5. BECOMING A TRAUMA-INFORMED SCHOOL;**

25                   **(II) WORK WITH STAKEHOLDERS AND CONTENT EXPERTS**  
26 **WITHIN THE STATE TO DEVELOP CURRICULUM AND CONTENT FOR TRAINING ON:**

27                           **1. THE TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACH; AND**

28                           **2. BECOMING A TRAUMA-INFORMED SCHOOL; AND**

1                   **(III) OFFER THE TRAINING DEVELOPED UNDER ITEM (II) OF THIS**  
2 **PARAGRAPH TO THE STAFF MEMBERS AT EACH LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM WHO**  
3 **INTERACT DIRECTLY WITH STUDENTS.**

4                   **(3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:**

5                   **(I) DISTRIBUTE THE GUIDELINES DEVELOPED UNDER**  
6 **PARAGRAPH (2)(I) OF THIS SUBSECTION TO EACH LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM; AND**

7                   **(II) DEVELOP A WEBSITE ON THE TRAUMA-INFORMED**  
8 **APPROACH THAT INCLUDES:**

9                   **1. THE GUIDELINES DEVELOPED UNDER PARAGRAPH**  
10 **(2)(I) OF THIS SUBSECTION;**

11                   **2. UPDATES ON EFFORTS BY LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS**  
12 **TO COORDINATE SERVICES PROVIDED BY SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL AND**  
13 **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES AND COORDINATORS; AND**

14                   **3. ANY OTHER INFORMATION THE DEPARTMENT, THE**  
15 **MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES,**  
16 **OR THE STAKEHOLDERS WHO HELPED DEVELOP THE TRAINING UNDER PARAGRAPH**  
17 **(2)(II) OF THIS SUBSECTION CONSIDER APPROPRIATE.**

18                   **(C) (1) THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE MARYLAND**  
19 **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, SHALL**  
20 **ESTABLISH A TRAUMA-INFORMED SCHOOLS EXPANSION PROGRAM.**

21                   **(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO:**

22                   **(I) EXPAND THE USE OF THE TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACH**  
23 **USED IN SCHOOLS; AND**

24                   **(II) INTENSIVELY TRAIN SCHOOLS ON BECOMING**  
25 **TRAUMA-INFORMED SCHOOLS.**

26                   **(3) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2019, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL SELECT**  
27 **ONE SCHOOL FROM EACH OF THE FOLLOWING AREAS TO VOLUNTARILY**  
28 **PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM AND RECEIVE INTENSIVE TRAINING ON THE**  
29 **TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACH:**

30                   **(I) A METROPOLITAN OR URBAN AREA OF THE STATE;**

1 (II) A SUBURBAN AREA OF THE STATE; AND

2 (III) A RURAL AREA OF THE STATE.

3 (4) IN IMPLEMENTING THE PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

4 (I) CONSULT WITH SCHOOLS AND JURISDICTIONS THAT USE  
5 THE TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACH OR ANOTHER SIMILAR APPROACH;

6 (II) PROVIDE TRAINING TO THE TEACHERS, EDUCATION  
7 SUPPORT STAFF, AND ADMINISTRATORS OF THE SELECTED SCHOOLS ON:

8 1. THE TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACH; AND

9 2. HOW TO BECOME A TRAUMA-INFORMED SCHOOL;

10 (III) MONITOR EACH SELECTED SCHOOL'S PROGRESS IN  
11 BECOMING A TRAUMA-INFORMED SCHOOL; AND

12 (IV) PROVIDE THE SELECTED SCHOOLS WITH ASSISTANCE, AS  
13 NECESSARY.

14 (D) (1) THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE MARYLAND  
15 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, SHALL  
16 COLLECT DATA RELATED TO THE PROGRAM AND STUDY THE PROGRESS AND  
17 RESULTS OF THE PROGRAM AT THE END OF EACH SCHOOL YEAR BEGINNING WITH  
18 THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR THROUGH THE 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR.

19 (2) THE STUDY REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS  
20 SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE AN EXAMINATION OF ACADEMIC AND NONACADEMIC  
21 BENEFITS THAT STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND STAFF HAVE EXPERIENCED:

22 (I) RESULTING FROM PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM; AND

23 (II) IN A SCHOOL THAT HAS USED THE MATERIALS OR TAKEN  
24 THE TRAINING PROVIDED UNDER SUBSECTION (B)(2) OF THIS SECTION.

25 (3) ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 31 EACH YEAR, BEGINNING IN 2020 AND  
26 FOR THE NEXT 4 YEARS, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT ITS FINDINGS TO THE  
27 GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT  
28 ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

29 (E) (1) THERE IS A TRAUMA-INFORMED SCHOOLS EXPANSION

1 **PROGRAM FUND.**

2 (2) **THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE**  
3 **PROGRAM.**

4 (3) **THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE FUND.**

5 (4) (I) **THE FUND IS A SPECIAL, NONLAPSING FUND THAT IS NOT**  
6 **SUBJECT TO § 7-302 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.**

7 (II) **THE STATE TREASURER SHALL HOLD THE FUND**  
8 **SEPARATELY, AND THE COMPTROLLER SHALL ACCOUNT FOR THE FUND.**

9 (5) **THE FUND CONSISTS OF:**

10 (I) **MONEY APPROPRIATED IN THE STATE BUDGET TO THE**  
11 **FUND;**

12 (II) **INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND; AND**

13 (III) **ANY OTHER MONEY FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE ACCEPTED**  
14 **FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FUND.**

15 (6) **THE FUND MAY BE USED ONLY FOR THE PROGRAM.**

16 (7) (I) **THE STATE TREASURER SHALL INVEST THE MONEY OF THE**  
17 **FUND IN THE SAME MANNER AS OTHER STATE MONEY MAY BE INVESTED.**

18 (II) **ANY INTEREST EARNINGS OF THE FUND SHALL BE**  
19 **CREDITED TO THE FUND.**

20 (8) **EXPENDITURES FROM THE FUND MAY BE MADE ONLY IN**  
21 **ACCORDANCE WITH THE STATE BUDGET.**

22 (9) **MONEY EXPENDED FROM THE FUND FOR THE PROGRAM IS**  
23 **SUPPLEMENTAL TO AND IS NOT INTENDED TO TAKE THE PLACE OF FUNDING THAT**  
24 **OTHERWISE WOULD BE APPROPRIATED FOR THE PROGRAM.**

25 **Article – State Finance and Procurement**

26 6-226.

27 (a) (2) (i) **Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and unless**  
28 **inconsistent with a federal law, grant agreement, or other federal requirement or with the**

1 terms of a gift or settlement agreement, net interest on all State money allocated by the  
2 State Treasurer under this section to special funds or accounts, and otherwise entitled to  
3 receive interest earnings, as accounted for by the Comptroller, shall accrue to the General  
4 Fund of the State.

5 (ii) The provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph do not apply  
6 to the following funds:

7 112. the Pretrial Services Program Grant Fund; [and]

8 113. the Veteran Employment and Transition Success Fund;

9 **AND**

10 **114. THE TRAUMA-INFORMED SCHOOLS EXPANSION**  
11 **PROGRAM FUND.**

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
13 1, 2019.