

WHEREAS, The national nature of ~~the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System survey~~ these surveys enables states to compare the risk behaviors of their children with those of children in other parts of the country and is required data for the receipt of certain federal grant funding; and

~~WHEREAS, In 2004, the Maryland General Assembly passed legislation requiring that the Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System survey be administered every 2 years in a randomly selected sample of Maryland schools; and~~

WHEREAS, The administration of surveys requires substantial time and effort by Maryland schools; and

~~WHEREAS, The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System survey obtains some of the data required for the Maryland Adolescent Survey and the Youth Tobacco Survey and can be modified to obtain all legally required data on the use of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs~~ It is desirable to minimize the administrative impact of these surveys on both students and schools in order to improve the quality and validity of the data collected; now, therefore,

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

Article - Education

7-420.

(a) The Department shall establish procedures for the administration of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System survey.

(b) The Department may omit up to a maximum of one-third of the survey questions if the Department considers the content of the questions inappropriate.

(c) (1) The Department shall require a local school system to obtain parental consent using a parental consent form before administering the survey.

(2) The parental consent form shall include a statement that explains how a parent can obtain a copy of the survey questions that will be administered and more information regarding the survey, including the mailing address, telephone number, and website address of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

7-420.