

certain educational programs; providing that a school employee that reports a certain act is not civilly liable under certain circumstances; defining a certain term terms; and generally relating to policies and standards related to bullying, harassment, and intimidation in the public schools.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Education

Section 7-424

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2006 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Education

Section ~~7-420~~ 7-424.1

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2006 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, The National Institutes of Health reports that bullying affects more than 5 million students in grades 6 through 11; and

WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, bullies identified by age 8 are six times more likely to have a criminal conviction by age 24; and

WHEREAS, The increased use of the Internet by students is presenting new challenges regarding bullying in schools; and

WHEREAS, Bullying may lead to an increase in absenteeism or the dropout rate; and

WHEREAS, Maintaining a safe environment in schools is integral to promoting learning and success in students; now, therefore,

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

Article – Education

7-424.

(a) (1) In this section[,] THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.