

SENATE BILL 258

F1

0lr1290

By: **Senators Bailey, Beidle, Gallion, Ready, ~~and Salling~~ Salling, Kagan, and Carozza**

Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2020

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 19, 2020

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public and Nonpublic Schools – Electric Retractable Room Partitions –**
3 **Operation Requirements**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting public and nonpublic school employees from operating an
5 electric retractable room partition in a ~~public~~ school except under certain
6 circumstances; requiring any annual safety review, evaluation, or exercise for school
7 employees in a certain school building to include certain information and
8 demonstrations; requiring the State Department of Education to develop and
9 disseminate model safety guidelines on the safe operation of electric retractable room
10 partitions; requiring the Department to publish model safety guidelines on its public
11 website; defining ~~a certain term~~ certain terms; and generally relating to electric
12 retractable room partitions and ~~public~~ schools.

13 BY adding to
14 Article – Education
15 Section 7–446
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Education**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



7-446.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION, THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) ~~“ELECTRIC~~ “ELECTRIC RETRACTABLE ROOM PARTITION” MEANS A ROOM PARTITION, DIVIDER, CURTAIN, OR ANY OTHER SIMILAR DEVICE THAT IS OPENED AND RETRACTED BY OPERATION OF AN ELECTRIC MOTOR.

(3) “SCHOOL EMPLOYEE” MEANS AN EMPLOYEE OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL OR NONPUBLIC SCHOOL.

(B) A SCHOOL EMPLOYEE MAY NOT OPERATE AN ELECTRIC RETRACTABLE ROOM PARTITION IN A SCHOOL BUILDING UNLESS:

(1) THE PARTITION INCLUDES A SAFETY SENSOR THAT AUTOMATICALLY STOPS THE MOVEMENT OF THE PARTITION WHEN A BODY PASSES BETWEEN THE LEADING EDGE AND A WALL, AN OPPOSING PARTITION, OR THE STACKING AREA OF THE PARTITION;

(2) NO STUDENTS ARE PRESENT IN THE SCHOOL BUILDING; OR

(3) THE ROOM OR AREA WHERE THE PARTITION IS LOCATED IS LOCKED OR OTHERWISE FREE OF OR INACCESSIBLE TO STUDENTS.

(C) ANY ANNUAL SAFETY REVIEW, EVALUATION, OR EXERCISE FOR SCHOOL EMPLOYEES IN A SCHOOL BUILDING WITH AN ELECTRIC RETRACTABLE ROOM PARTITION SHALL INCLUDE INFORMATION AND DEMONSTRATIONS, AS APPROPRIATE, REGARDING THE SAFE OPERATION OF THE ELECTRIC RETRACTABLE ROOM PARTITION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTIONS (B) AND (D) OF THIS SECTION.

(D) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ~~DEVELOP~~:

(1) DEVELOP AND DISSEMINATE TO EACH COUNTY BOARD AND EACH NONPUBLIC SCHOOL MODEL SAFETY GUIDELINES REGARDING THE OPERATION OF ELECTRIC RETRACTABLE ROOM PARTITIONS; AND

(2) PUBLISH THE MODEL SAFETY GUIDELINES ON ITS PUBLIC WEBSITE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2020.