



**The Network**  
for Public Health Law

Ideas. Experience. Practical answers.

# 2021 Legislative Session Recap

**Brooke Torton, JD**

**Senior Staff Attorney, the Network for Public Health Law – Eastern Region Office  
Deputy Director, Legal Resource Center for Public Health Policy**

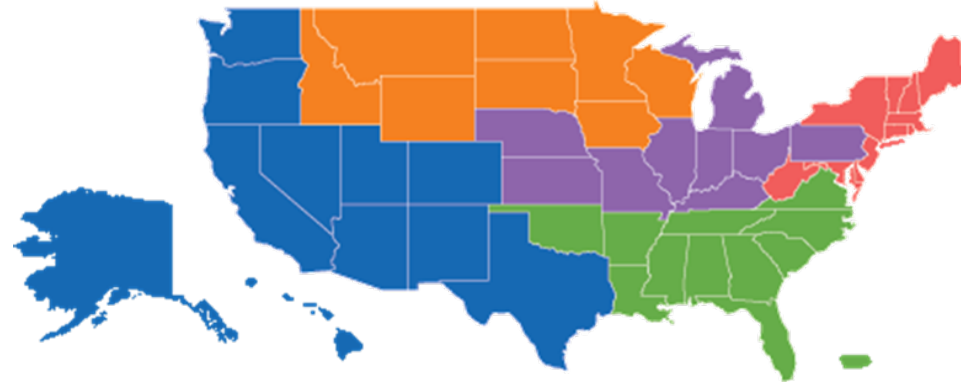
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## Disclaimer



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***The Network for Public Health Law provides information and technical assistance on issues related to public health law. The legal information and assistance provided in this presentation does not constitute legal advice or legal representation.***



## What is the Network?

- » **Funded by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation**

The mission of the Foundation is to improve the health and health care of all Americans.

- » **One National Office**

Donna Levin, Executive Director

- » **Five Regional Offices**

**Northern**, **Western**, **Mid-States**, **Southeastern**, **Eastern**

- » **YOU!**

# Food Insecurity

- **HB891/SB767: Higher Education- Hunger-free Campus Grant Program- PASSED**
- Establishes a Hunger-Free Campus Grant Program, administered by the MD Higher Education Commission;
- Addresses student hunger and food needs on campus, raises awareness about services, and builds partnerships to address these needs;
- Requiring a food pantry on campus or an arrangement to assist students in receiving food;
- Commission must designate hunger-free campuses and identify a staff member to assist students enrolling in and using SNAP benefits; and
- Requires an annual appropriation from the Governor for \$150,000 beginning FY2023.

# Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

- **SB662: Education – Commission on Multicultural Education**
- Establishes the Commission on Multicultural Education to develop standards and a model state curriculum for multicultural education for students Pre-K through Grade 12;
- Commission reviews existing curricula and develops recommendations;
- Develops model coursework to include historical and current events impacting ethnic groups;
- Offering recommendations for collaborating with and training teachers to implement the multicultural education standard and curriculum.

# Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

- **HB11: Public Schools - African American History - Development of Content Standards and Implementation**
- Requires the State Board of Education to develop content standards for African American history to be included in social studies.

# Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

- **HB205/SB427: Public Schools - Provision of Menstrual Hygiene Products – Requirement**
- Requires county boards of education to require middle and high schools to provide menstrual hygiene products at no charge to students.

# Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

- **HB401/SB438: Public Schools - Pregnant and Parenting Students - Policies and Reports**
- Requires the State Department of Education to establish a model policy to support the educational and parenting goals and to improve educational outcomes for pregnant and parenting students.



# Behavioral & Mental Health

- **HB377: Commission on Student Behavioral Health and Mental Health Treatment**
- Creates a Commission to study, evaluate, update, and revise guidelines for student behavioral health and mental health treatment and practices.

# Behavioral & Mental Health

- **HB713/SB409: County Boards of Education - Therapy Dogs - Policy for Handling and Use in Schools**
- Requires that each county board adopt a policy for the use of therapy dogs in public schools.

# Behavioral & Mental Health

- **SB243: Public High Schools - Health Education - Gambling Dangers and Addiction**
- Requires the State Department of Education to develop a program for high school students to learn about the dangers and addictions associated with gambling.

# Learning Differences

- **HB237/SB126: State Department of Education - Early Literacy and Dyslexia Practices - Guidance and Assistance**
- Requires that on or before October 1, 2021, the State Dept. of Education to establish a stakeholder advisory group to develop a reading and dyslexia handbook guide for local school systems in the implementation of best practices for early literacy and dyslexia.

# Learning Differences

- **HB1271: Special Education - Student Evaluation - Identification of Traumatic Brain Injury**
- Requires that a child's initial evaluation for special education services includes questions regarding the child's history of brain injury or neurologic insult that are developed in consultation with the State Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Board.

# Medical Issues

- **HB370/SB225: Education - Public and Nonpublic Schools - Seizure Action Plans (Brynleigh's Act)**
- Requires public schools to have a seizure action plan for response to a medical emergency with a student who has a seizure disorder;
- Plan must be prepared in collaboration among the parent/guardian, the student's medical professional and school administrators.

# Medical Issues

- **HB609: Public and Nonpublic Schools - Bronchodilator Availability and Use - Policy, "Bronchodilator Rescue Inhaler Law"**
- Requires that each county board establish a policy to authorize designated school personnel to administer bronchodilators to students who have asthma, are experiencing asthma-related symptoms, or are perceived to be in respiratory distress

# Physical Health

- **HB1296: Public School Students - Daily Physical Activity (Student Health and Fitness Act) (HB621- specific to Prince George's County)**
- State to provide each public elementary school student with a daily program of at least 150 minutes weekly of developmentally appropriate, moderate-to-vigorous physical activity, including recess and at least 90 minutes of physical education weekly.



# School Safety

- **SB515/HB48: Criminal Procedure – Registered Sex Offenders – Entry Onto School Property**
- Requires students who are registered sex offenders to continue receiving education in locations other than school properties.

# COVID-19

- **HB566- County Boards of Education - Virtual Schools - Requirement**
- **HB665- Education - Public Charter Schools - Virtual Learning Programs**
- **HB714/HB300- Special Education - Learning Continuity Plan - Requirement**
- **HB717/SB770- Education - Technology Resources - Funding (Ending the Digital Divide Act)**
- **HB998- County Boards of Education - In-Person Instruction and Related Services - Requirement**
- **HB1104- Primary and Secondary Education - Virtual School - Feasibility Study**
- **HB1128/SB676- Garrett County - Public Schools - Virtual Education Days**
- **HB1170/SB941- Primary and Secondary Education - Virtual School – Alterations**
- **HB1181/SB921- County Boards of Education - Accessibility Standards - Digital Tools (Nonvisual Access Accountability Act for Grades K-12 Education)**
- **HB1322- Primary and Secondary Education - School Personnel Not Returning to In-Person Instruction and Work - Accommodations and Discipline**
- **HB1376- Primary and Secondary Education - Virtual Education – Requirements**
- **SB966- Virtual Schools - Statewide Education Platform - Procurement and Establishment**

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# Q&A

[btorton@law.umaryland.edu](mailto:btorton@law.umaryland.edu)