

Bill No.: _____
Requested: _____
Committee: _____

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By: **Prince George’s County Delegation**

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Prince George’s County – Elementary School Students – Daily Physical Activity**

3 **PG 503–20**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring that a student in a Prince George’s County public elementary
5 school be provided a certain daily program of physical activity each week totaling a
6 minimum number of minutes; requiring the program of physical activity for a certain
7 category of student to be consistent with a certain program for the student, if
8 applicable; requiring a Prince George’s County public elementary school to designate
9 a certain group to plan and coordinate certain activities; requiring the Prince
10 George’s County Board of Education to adopt certain regulations; requiring a certain
11 elementary school to provide a certain notice to the county board on or before a
12 certain date; authorizing a public elementary school to apply to the county board for
13 a certain extension; establishing the termination date of a certain extension; and
14 generally relating to elementary school student health and fitness in Prince George’s
15 County.

16 BY adding to
17 Article – Education
18 Section 7–409.1
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



Preamble

WHEREAS, Obesity leads to at least 300,000 deaths among adults in the United States each year due in part to physical inactivity and a poor diet; and

WHEREAS, Inadequate participation in physical activity is a significant contributor to the “epidemic of obesity” that has plagued the nation’s young people during the past 2 decades; and

WHEREAS, Physical activity offers young people many health benefits, including improving aerobic endurance and muscular strength, helping to control weight, building lean muscle and reducing fat, and helping to build greater bone mass, all of which thwart the development of osteoporosis in adulthood and prevent or reduce high blood pressure; and

WHEREAS, A growing body of evidence suggests that providing students with more physical education and physical activity opportunities helps reduce the cost schools incur by reducing absenteeism, improving student health, and reducing staff time spent addressing academic performance; and

WHEREAS, A growing body of evidence also suggests that improvement in test scores and overall academic achievement can be linked to increased time in physical education; and

WHEREAS, The National PTA considers “Early Physical Education” a “Parent Priority” and urges its members to promote physical education in the schools; now, therefore,

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

Article – Education

7-409.1.

(A) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY IN PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY.

1 **(B) (1) (i) A STUDENT IN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN PRINCE**
2 **GEORGE’S COUNTY SHALL BE PROVIDED A DAILY PROGRAM OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**
3 **TOTALING 150 MINUTES EACH WEEK, INCLUDING A MINIMUM OF 90 MINUTES OF**
4 **PHYSICAL EDUCATION.**

5 **(ii) ANY MINUTES NOT CONSISTING OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION**
6 **SHALL CONSIST OF DEVELOPMENTALLY APPROPRIATE, MODERATE-TO-VIGOROUS**
7 **ACTIVITY, INCLUDING RECESS.**

8 **(2) A STUDENT’S PROGRAM OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY SHALL BE**
9 **CONSISTENT WITH THE STUDENT’S INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM, IF**
10 **APPLICABLE.**

11 **(3) EACH PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN PRINCE GEORGE’S**
12 **COUNTY SHALL DESIGNATE A PHYSICAL ACTIVITY LEADERSHIP TEAM TO PLAN AND**
13 **COORDINATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTIVITIES THAT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF**
14 **PARAGRAPH (1)(ii) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

15 **(4) THE PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL**
16 **ADOPT REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS**
17 **SUBSECTION.**

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

19 (a) A public elementary school that does not meet the requirements of §
20 7–409.1(b) of the Education Article as enacted by Section 1 of this Act shall notify the Prince
21 George’s County Board of Education on or before October 1, 2020.

22 (b) (1) A public elementary school may apply to the Prince George’s County
23 Board of Education for an extension of time for the public elementary school to establish a
24 plan to ensure full compliance with the requirements of this Act by July 1, 2023.

25 (2) If granted, an extension shall terminate at the end of July 1, 2023.

26 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
27 1, 2020.