

~~drugs, gangs, weapons, vandalism, and other threats to school safety and security, passed a resolution endorsing "gun safety education for children that is promoted through the Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program" and found that the Program "effectively teaches youngsters what to do if they encounter a firearm"; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Twenty one states have passed legislation recommending or recognizing the importance of the Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program and twenty three governors have recognized the importance of the Program; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention under the United States Department of Justice, at the request of then Attorney General Janet Reno, prepared a report titled Promising Strategies to Reduce Gun Violence, which included the Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program as one of only 60 programs selected out of more than 400 programs reviewed, and listed the Program as an outstanding education initiative and alternative strategy for prevention of firearms accidents; now, therefore,~~

WHEREAS, A number of youth in Maryland have been the unfortunate and tragic victims of firearms accidents over the years; and

WHEREAS, Firearms safety and accident avoidance programs, including the "Eddie Eagle GunSafe Program", the "In a Flash" program, and the "STAR" program, have been developed and taught to children across America by school systems, law enforcement agencies, civic and community groups, and other organizations, specifically to prevent accidental deaths from firearms; now, therefore,

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

Article - Education

2-205.

(h) (1) With the advice of the State Superintendent, the State Board shall establish basic policy and guidelines for the program of instruction for the public schools.

(2) The policy and guidelines shall be printed in sufficient quantities to provide copies to:

- (i) Public school officials and teachers;
- (ii) Private schools; and
- (iii) Interested citizens of this State.

(3) The State Board [of Education] shall require the establishment of criteria in each county for the selection of applicants for enrollment in public secondary school career and technology education programs. Enrollment criteria developed for this purpose shall ensure equal access to programs.

(4) ~~(4)~~ THE STATE BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH POLICY AND GUIDELINES FOR A PROGRAM OF INSTRUCTION FOR A FIREARMS SAFETY AND ACCIDENT