

SENATE BILL 1090

E4, F5

4lr2036
CF 4lr2035

By: **Senators Waldstreicher and Kagan**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2024

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Center for School Safety – Statewide Secure Schools Emergency**
3 **Response Program – Established**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Statewide Secure Schools Emergency Response
5 Program to be administered by the Maryland Center for School Safety to improve
6 the safety and security of public schools in the State by implementing a certain
7 emergency notification system; and generally relating to the establishment of the
8 Statewide Secure Schools Emergency Response Program.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
10 Article – Education
11 Section 7–1502(a)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Article – Education
16 Section 7–1502(g)(20) and (21)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

19 BY adding to
20 Article – Education
21 Section 7–1502(g)(22) and 7–1513
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2022 Replacement Volume 2023 Supplement)

24 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
25 Article – Public Safety
26 Section 1–301(a), (j), (t), and (u)
27 Annotated Code of Maryland

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

Article – Education

7–1502.

(a) There is a Maryland Center for School Safety.

(g) The Center shall perform the following functions and duties:

(20) Review and comment on school emergency plans developed under §
7–1510 of this subtitle; [and]

(21) Report to the General Assembly and the Governor on life–threatening
incidents as required under § 7–1510 of this subtitle; **AND**

**(22) ADMINISTER THE STATEWIDE SECURE SCHOOLS EMERGENCY
RESPONSE PROGRAM UNDER § 7–1513 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

7–1513.

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

**(2) “FIRST RESPONDER” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 1–301 OF
THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE.**

**(3) “PANIC BUTTON EVENT” MEANS AN EMERGENCY SITUATION THAT
COMPELS THE USER OF AN EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM TO PRESS A PANIC
BUTTON TO INSTANTLY SUMMON HELP TO THEIR LOCATION FROM FIRST
RESPONDERS OR OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY PERSONNEL.**

**(4) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE STATEWIDE SECURE SCHOOLS
EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM.**

**(5) “PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 1–301
OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE.**

**(6) “PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT” HAS THE MEANING STATED
IN § 1–301 OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE.**

(B) (1) THERE IS A STATEWIDE SECURE SCHOOLS EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE CENTER.

(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO IMPROVE THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE STATE BY IMPLEMENTING A STATEWIDE EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM THAT FACILITATES COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL PERSONNEL, A PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT, AND A PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY IN LIFE-THREATENING AND EMERGENCY SITUATIONS, INCLUDING MEDICAL EMERGENCIES AND THE PRESENCE OF AN ACTIVE SHOOTER OR INTRUDER AT A PUBLIC SCHOOL.

(C) THE PROGRAM SHALL PROCURE AND IMPLEMENT AN EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION PLATFORM FOR A SECURE SCHOOLS EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM THROUGH WHICH ALL SCHOOL FACULTY AND STAFF ARE ABLE TO ALERT A PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT TO REPORT A LIFE-THREATENING OR AN EMERGENCY SITUATION.

(D) THE COMMUNICATION PLATFORM REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

(1) A CELLULAR PHONE APPLICATION-BASED PANIC BUTTON EVENT SYSTEM THAT:

(I) CAN BE INTEGRATED WITH A LOCAL PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT; AND

(II) IS ABLE TO:

1. PLACE A STANDARD TELEPHONE CALL TO 9-1-1;

2. TEXT COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN AUTHORIZED USERS AND A PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT AND PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY;

3. PROVIDE TEXT MESSAGES, E-MAILS, AND PUSH NOTIFICATIONS TO AUTHORIZED USERS, INCLUDING SCHOOL PERSONNEL, FIRST RESPONDERS, AND OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY PERSONNEL; AND

4. AUTOMATICALLY TRANSMIT SCHOOL FLOOR PLANS, SCHOOL EMERGENCY PLANS, AND RELEVANT CONTACT INFORMATION TO FIRST RESPONDERS OR PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY PERSONNEL RESPONDING TO A PANIC BUTTON EVENT AT A SCHOOL WITHOUT FURTHER ACTION NEEDED BY THE USER REPORTING THE EMERGENCY; AND

(2) CAPABILITY TO GENERATE AN AUTOMATED EMERGENCY ALERT NOTIFICATION TO ALL PUBLIC AND NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS LOCATED IN REASONABLE PROXIMITY TO AN EMERGENCY SITUATION THAT IS DETERMINED TO BE AN IMMINENT THREAT TO SCHOOL CAMPUSES OR SCHOOL PERSONNEL BY THE PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT RECEIVING THE REPORT, INCLUDING REPORTS OF:

(I) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO WAS KILLED;

(II) AN ACCIDENT OR THREAT THAT RESULTED IN SERIOUS BODILY INJURY;

(III) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO WAS ASSAULTED WITH A DEADLY WEAPON AND THE ALLEGED ASSAILANT REMAINS AT LARGE;

(IV) THE DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM; AND

(V) ANY OTHER EMERGENCY SITUATION AGREED TO BY A PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY AND A COUNTY BOARD.

(E) THE COMMUNICATION PLATFORM PROCURED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE CERTIFIED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY UNDER THE FEDERAL SUPPORT ANTI-TERRORISM BY FOSTERING EFFECTIVE TECHNOLOGIES ACT.

(F) (1) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2026, THE CENTER SHALL ENSURE THAT THE PROGRAM HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED IN EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL IN THE STATE.

(2) (I) A PUBLIC SCHOOL WITH AN EXISTING PROGRAM THAT IS SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR TO THE PROGRAM MAY SUBMIT A REQUEST TO THE CENTER TO OPT OUT OF THE PROGRAM.

(II) IF THE CENTER DETERMINES THAT A PUBLIC SCHOOL'S EXISTING PROGRAM IS SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR TO THE PROGRAM, THE CENTER SHALL GRANT THE SCHOOL'S REQUEST TO OPT OUT OF THE PROGRAM.

(G) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF \$4,500,000 FOR THE PROGRAM.

Article – Public Safety

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(j) (1) “First responder” means an employee of a State or local public safety agency that provides emergency response services.

(2) “First responder” includes:

(i) a firefighter;

(ii) a paramedic;

(iii) an emergency medical technician;

(iv) a rescue squad member;

(v) a sworn member of the Office of the State Fire Marshal;

(vi) a member of a volunteer fire or rescue company who is a covered employee under § 9–234 of the Labor and Employment Article;

(vii) an individual who is licensed or certified under § 13–516 of the Education Article; and

(viii) a 9–1–1 specialist.

(t) “Public safety agency” means:

(1) a functional division of a public agency that provides fire fighting, police, medical, or other emergency services; or

(2) a private entity that provides fire fighting, police, medical, or other emergency services on a voluntary basis.

(u) “Public safety answering point” means a communications facility that:

(1) is operated on a 24–hour basis;

(2) first receives 9–1–1 requests for emergency services in a 9–1–1 service area; and

(3) as appropriate:

(i) dispatches public safety services directly;

(ii) transmits incident data to appropriate public safety agencies within the State for the dispatch of public safety services; or

1 (iii) transfers 9–1–1 requests for emergency services or transmits
2 incident data to:

3 1. an appropriate federal emergency communication center
4 responsible for the delivery of public safety services on a federal campus or federal
5 reservation; or

6 2. an appropriate public safety answering point located
7 within or outside the State.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
9 1, 2024.