

HOUSE BILL 1361

E4

5lr3291

By: **Delegate Bhandari**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2025

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety – Law Enforcement Agencies – Standardized Report Writing**
3 **System**
4 **(Maryland Statewide Law Enforcement Report Writing Standardization Act)**

5 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission to
6 create a standardized report writing system for all law enforcement agencies in the
7 State; requiring all law enforcement agencies in the State to implement the
8 standardized report writing system within a certain time period; and generally
9 relating to standardized report writing systems for law enforcement agencies.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – Public Safety
12 Section 3–801 through 3–807 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 8. Law
13 Enforcement Standardized Report Writing System”
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Public Safety**

19 **SUBTITLE 8. LAW ENFORCEMENT STANDARDIZED REPORT WRITING SYSTEM.**

20 **3–801.**

21 **(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
22 **INDICATED.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(B) "COMMISSION" MEANS THE MARYLAND POLICE TRAINING AND STANDARDS COMMISSION.

(C) "STANDARDIZED REPORT WRITING SYSTEM" MEANS A CENTRALIZED DIGITAL PLATFORM TO ALLOW FOR UNIFORM DATA COLLECTION, REPORTING, AND SHARING ACROSS ALL JURISDICTIONS WITHIN THE STATE FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT.

3-802.

IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ESTABLISH A UNIFORM, STANDARDIZED REPORT WRITING SYSTEM FOR ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN THE STATE TO ENHANCE THE COLLABORATION AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION BETWEEN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, IMPROVE DATA ACCURACY, AND ENSURE EFFICIENT RESOURCE USE IN CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS AND REPORTING.

3-803.

(A) (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A STANDARDIZED REPORT WRITING SYSTEM THAT MEETS THE OPERATIONAL NEEDS OF EACH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.

(2) THE COMMISSION SHALL USE THE MARYLAND AUTOMATED ACCIDENT REPORTING SYSTEM FOR DOCUMENTING AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENTS AS A MODEL FOR THE STANDARDIZED REPORT WRITING SYSTEM.

(B) THE STANDARDIZED REPORT WRITING SYSTEM SHALL:

(1) COMPLY WITH FEDERAL AND STATE DATA PRIVACY LAWS;

(2) ALLOW FOR REAL-TIME DATA SHARING, ANALYTICS, AND INTEROPERABILITY; AND

(3) ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SECURELY ACCESS AND DOWNLOAD REPORTS WITH APPROPRIATE SAFEGUARDS TO PROTECT SENSITIVE INFORMATION.

(C) EACH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY SHALL:

(1) TRANSITION TO THE STANDARDIZED REPORT WRITING SYSTEM WITHIN 18 MONTHS AFTER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SYSTEM; AND

1 **(2) DISCONTINUE THE USE OF ANY OTHER REPORT WRITING SYSTEM**
2 **UNLESS THE SYSTEM IS INTEGRATED WITHIN THE STANDARDIZED REPORT WRITING**
3 **SYSTEM.**

4 **3-804.**

5 **(A) THE COMMISSION SHALL:**

6 **(1) PROVIDE INITIAL AND ONGOING TRAINING TO LAW**
7 **ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL ON THE USE OF THE STANDARDIZED REPORT WRITING**
8 **SYSTEM; AND**

9 **(2) DEVELOP A TRANSITION PLAN, INCLUDING TECHNICAL SUPPORT**
10 **AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION, TO ASSIST EACH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY DURING**
11 **THE IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD FOR THE STANDARDIZED REPORT WRITING SYSTEM.**

12 **(B) EACH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY SHALL DESIGNATE A LIAISON**
13 **OFFICER TO COORDINATE WITH THE COMMISSION ON THE STANDARDIZED REPORT**
14 **WRITING SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION AND TRAINING.**

15 **3-805.**

16 **(A) THE STATE MAY FUND TRAINING PROGRAMS AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT**
17 **FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STANDARDIZED REPORT WRITING SYSTEM.**

18 **(B) LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES MAY SEEK ADDITIONAL FUNDING**
19 **THROUGH FEDERAL GRANTS OR PARTNERSHIPS.**

20 **(C) THE GOVERNOR IS ENCOURAGED TO INCLUDE AN APPROPRIATION IN**
21 **THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF**
22 **THE STANDARDIZED REPORT WRITING SYSTEM.**

23 **3-806.**

24 **(A) THE COMMISSION SHALL ESTABLISH A COMPLIANCE MONITORING UNIT**
25 **TO:**

26 **(1) ENSURE EACH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY IMPLEMENTS AND**
27 **USES THE STANDARDIZED REPORT WRITING SYSTEM; AND**

28 **(2) CONDUCT PERIODIC AUDITS AND PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON THE USE**
29 **AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE STANDARDIZED REPORT WRITING SYSTEM.**

1 **(B) (1) A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY THAT DOES NOT IMPLEMENT THE**
2 **STANDARDIZED REPORT WRITING SYSTEM WITHIN THE PRESCRIBED TIMELINE**
3 **UNDER § 3-803 OF THIS SUBTITLE SHALL SUBMIT A CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN TO**
4 **THE COMMISSION WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER ANY REQUEST BY THE COMMISSION.**

5 **(2) A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY THAT IS REQUIRED TO SUBMIT A**
6 **CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION AND DOES**
7 **NOT COMPLY WITH THE PLAN AS REQUIRED BY THE COMMISSION MAY HAVE FUNDS**
8 **WITHHELD FROM A FUND OR GRANT PROGRAM UNDER TITLE 4 OF THIS ARTICLE.**

9 **3-807.**

10 **BEGINNING OCTOBER 15, 2026, AND EACH OCTOBER 15 THEREAFTER, THE**
11 **COMMISSION SHALL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH §**
12 **2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE**
13 **PROGRESS AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE STANDARDIZED REPORT WRITING SYSTEM,**
14 **INCLUDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS AND FUTURE**
15 **RESOURCE NEEDS.**

16 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect**
17 **October 1, 2025.**