

SENATE BILL 755

E4, P1
SB 785/23 – JPR

4lr2982
CF 4lr2980

By: **Senators Hettleman, Bailey, Elfreth, and Hester**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2024

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Department of Emergency Management – Office of Domestic**
3 **Terrorism Response**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Office of Domestic Terrorism Response within the
5 Maryland Department of Emergency Management for the purpose of implementing
6 measures to prepare for, prevent, and recover from domestic terrorism and hate
7 crimes; requiring the Maryland Task Force on Preventing and Countering Domestic
8 Terrorism to serve in an advisory role for the Office; and generally relating to
9 emergency management and the Office of Domestic Terrorism Response.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
11 Article – Public Safety
12 Section 14–101(a) and (b)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

15 BY adding to
16 Article – Public Safety
17 Section 14–104.3
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

20 Preamble

21 WHEREAS, In accordance with the Joint Chairmen’s Report on the Operating
22 Budget for fiscal 2023, the Maryland Department of Emergency Management submitted
23 the Summary Report and Recommendations of the Task Force on Preventing and
24 Countering Domestic Terrorism in December 2022; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



WHEREAS, The report of the Task Force on Preventing and Countering Domestic Terrorism made several recommendations following a series of meetings focused on how to deter domestic terrorism in Maryland; and

WHEREAS, One of the recommendations from the report was to invest in a permanent State of Maryland capability focused on the prevention of violent extremist acts; and

WHEREAS, In the United States, since the early 1980s, domestic terrorist attacks are occurring more frequently, and hate crimes, as reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, are the highest they have been in over a decade; now, therefore,

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

Article – Public Safety

14–101.

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

(b) “Department” means the Maryland Department of Emergency Management.

14–104.3.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, “OFFICE” MEANS THE OFFICE OF DOMESTIC TERRORISM RESPONSE.

(B) (1) THERE IS AN OFFICE OF DOMESTIC TERRORISM RESPONSE IN THE DEPARTMENT.

(2) THE PURPOSE OF THE OFFICE IS TO PREPARE FOR, PREVENT, AND RECOVER FROM DOMESTIC TERRORISM AND HATE CRIMES.

(C) THE OFFICE SHALL COORDINATE WITH FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL AGENCIES IN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING PLANS TO:

(1) MAXIMIZE THE ROLE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION PLAY IN RESEARCHING AND DEVELOPING PROFESSIONAL TRAINING ON THE PREVENTION OF VIOLENT EXTREMIST ACTS; AND

(2) RAISE AWARENESS AMONG THE PUBLIC ABOUT VIOLENT EXTREMISM, INCLUDING VIOLENT EXTREMISM ASSOCIATED WITH HATE CRIMES, DOMESTIC TERRORISM, AND INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM.

1 **(D) THE MARYLAND TASK FORCE ON PREVENTING AND COUNTERING**
2 **DOMESTIC TERRORISM SHALL SERVE IN AN ADVISORY ROLE FOR THE OFFICE.**

3 **(E) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 EACH YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL**
4 **REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE**
5 **GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON:**

6 **(1) THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OFFICE;**

7 **(2) ANY RECOMMENDED LEGISLATION; AND**

8 **(3) ANY RESOURCES THAT THE OFFICE REQUIRES TO CARRY OUT ITS**
9 **PURPOSE AND DUTIES.**

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
11 October 1, 2024.