

SENATE BILL 677

E4, F5

3lr1683

By: **Senator Waldstreicher**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2023

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; prohibiting
6 the inspection of certain records related to the Program; requiring the Maryland
7 9–1–1 Board to establish procedures to integrate county 9–1–1 systems with the
8 Program; and generally relating to the establishment of the Statewide Secure
9 Schools Emergency Response Program.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
11 Article – Education
12 Section 7–1502(a)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2022 Replacement Volume)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 Article – Education
17 Section 7–1502(g)(20) and (21)
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2022 Replacement Volume)

20 BY adding to
21 Article – Education
22 Section 7–1502(g)(22) and 7–1513
23 Annotated Code of Maryland
24 (2022 Replacement Volume)

25 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
26 Article – General Provisions
27 Section 4–314.1

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Public Safety
Section 1–301(a), (j), (t), and (u) and 1–305(a)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume)

BY adding to
Article – Public Safety
Section 1–306(h)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume)

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**

1 BUTTON TO INSTANTLY SUMMON HELP TO THEIR LOCATION FROM FIRST
2 RESPONDERS OR OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY PERSONNEL.

3 (4) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE STATEWIDE SECURE SCHOOLS
4 EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM.

5 (5) "PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 1-301
6 OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE.

7 (6) "PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT" HAS THE MEANING STATED
8 IN § 1-301 OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE.

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

11 (2) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO IMPROVE THE SAFETY AND
12 SECURITY OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE STATE BY IMPLEMENTING A STATEWIDE
13 EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM THAT FACILITATES COMMUNICATION BETWEEN
14 PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL PERSONNEL, A PUBLIC SAFETY
15 ANSWERING POINT, AND A PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY IN LIFE-THREATENING AND
16 EMERGENCY SITUATIONS, INCLUDING AN ACTIVE SHOOTER, A MEDICAL
17 EMERGENCY, SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS, OR AN INTRUDER.

18 (C) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2023, THE CENTER, IN CONSULTATION
19 WITH THE MARYLAND 9-1-1 BOARD, SHALL ENSURE THAT THE PROGRAM HAS BEEN
20 IMPLEMENTED IN EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL IN THE STATE.

21 (D) THE PROGRAM SHALL PROCURE AND IMPLEMENT A SINGLE
22 TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM FOR A SECURE SCHOOLS EMERGENCY RESPONSE
23 PROGRAM THROUGH WHICH AUTHORIZED USERS ARE ABLE TO CONTACT A PUBLIC
24 SAFETY ANSWERING POINT TO REPORT AND COMMUNICATE DURING
25 LIFE-THREATENING OR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.

26 (E) THE TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF
27 THIS SECTION SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

28 (1) A CELLULAR PHONE APPLICATION-BASED, PANIC BUTTON EVENT
29 SYSTEM THAT CAN BE INTEGRATED WITH A LOCAL PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING
30 POINT THAT IS ABLE TO:

31 (I) PLACE A STANDARD TELEPHONE CALL TO 9-1-1;

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

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

5 (IV) THE DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM; AND

6 (4) REAL-TIME COMMUNICATION CAPABILITIES TO ALLOW A PUBLIC
7 SAFETY ANSWERING POINT AND OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY PERSONNEL TO
8 VERIFY THE AUTHENTICITY OF REPORTS OF PANIC BUTTON EVENTS IF THERE IS A
9 SUSPICION OR EVIDENCE THAT IT IS A FALSE REPORT MADE BY A THIRD-PARTY,
10 NONAUTHORIZED USER.

11 (F) (1) THE TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM PROCURED UNDER SUBSECTION
12 (D) OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE CERTIFIED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
13 OF HOMELAND SECURITY UNDER THE FEDERAL SUPPORT ANTI-TERRORISM BY
14 FOSTERING EFFECTIVE TECHNOLOGIES ACT.

15 (2) EACH LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM SHALL PROVIDE TO THE CENTER
16 FOR EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL IN ITS JURISDICTION:

17 (I) SCHOOL FLOOR PLANS;

18 (II) EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANS; AND

19 (III) ACCESS TO OR GEOLOCATION COORDINATES FOR THE
20 PROPERTY BOUNDARIES FOR EACH SCHOOL.

21 (3) THE CENTER SHALL PROVIDE THE INFORMATION COMPILED
22 UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION TO THE VENDOR IMPLEMENTING THE
23 TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM FOR THE PROGRAM.

24 (G) A PERSON PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING CENTER
25 EMPLOYEES AND PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT EMPLOYEES, IS IMMUNE FROM
26 CIVIL OR CRIMINAL LIABILITY IF THE PERSON ACTS IN GOOD FAITH WHEN
27 RESPONDING TO A REPORTED THREAT OR EMERGENCY SITUATION.

28 (H) (1) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE
29 ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF \$4,500,000 FOR THE PROGRAM.

(2) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF \$1,000,000 FOR THE PROGRAM.

Article – General Provisions

4–314.1.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, a custodian shall deny inspection of any record disclosing:

(1) a safety evaluation or school emergency plan developed under § 7–1510 of the Education Article;

(2) an emergency response policy developed under § 7–1509 of the Education Article and § 3–520 of the Public Safety Article;

(3) guidelines for school resource officers and supplemental coverage by local law enforcement agencies developed by the Maryland Center for School Safety under § 7–1508 of the Education Article; [or]

(4) a plan to implement the Maryland Center for School Safety’s guidelines adopted by a local school system under § 7–1508 of the Education Article; OR

(5) A PLAN OR OTHER INFORMATION CREATED FOR, PROVIDED TO, OR DEVELOPED THROUGH THE STATEWIDE SECURE SCHOOLS EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM UNDER § 7–1513 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE.

(b) A custodian shall allow inspection of safety evaluation, school emergency plan, and emergency response policy records by the following entities in the performance of the entity’s official duties:

(1) the Maryland Center for School Safety;

(2) the Interagency Commission on School Construction;

(3) the Department of State Police;

(4) the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services;

(5) the Maryland Department of Emergency Management;

(6) local law enforcement agencies; and

(7) local organizations for emergency management.

Article – Public Safety

1–301.

(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

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

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

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

1–305.

(a) There is a Maryland 9–1–1 Board in the Maryland Department of Emergency Management.

1–306.

(H) (1) THE BOARD SHALL AID THE MARYLAND CENTER FOR SCHOOL SAFETY IN OPERATING THE STATEWIDE SECURE SCHOOLS EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER § 7–1513 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE.

(2) THE BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH PROCEDURES TO INTEGRATE COUNTY 9–1–1 SYSTEMS WITH THE STATEWIDE SECURE SCHOOLS EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2023.