

HOUSE BILL 1167

E4, F5

4lr2035
CF SB 1090

By: ~~Delegate Foley~~ Delegates Foley, Attar, Atterbeary, Buckel, Ebersole, Fair, Hartman, Henson, Hornberger, Griffith, Grossman, R. Long, Miller, Mireku-North, Patterson, Roberts, Vogel, Wells, Wilkins, Wims, Wu, and Young

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2024
Assigned to: Ways and Means and Appropriations

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 5, 2024

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

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

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the ~~Statewide~~ Secure Schools Emergency Response Grant
5 Program to be administered by the Maryland Center for School Safety to provide
6 funds to improve the safety and security of public schools in the State by
7 implementing a certain emergency notification system systems and communications
8 between certain entities; and generally relating to the establishment of the
9 ~~Statewide~~ Secure Schools Emergency Response Grant 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 and 2023 Supplement)

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 and 2023 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



BY adding to

Article – Education

Section 7–1502(g)(22) and 7–1513

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2022 Replacement Volume 2023 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Public Safety

Section 1–301(a), (j), (t), and (u)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(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 GRANT PROGRAM UNDER § 7–1513 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

7–1513.

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

**(2) “EMERGENCY EVENT” MEANS AN EMERGENCY SITUATION THAT
REQUIRES AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE BY FIRST RESPONDERS.**

**~~(2)~~ (3) “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 GRANT 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 GRANT PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE CENTER.

11 (2) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO
12 LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS TO IMPROVE THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF PUBLIC
13 SCHOOLS IN THE STATE BY IMPLEMENTING A STATEWIDE EMERGENCY
14 NOTIFICATION SYSTEM THAT FACILITATES SYSTEMS AND COMMUNICATION
15 BETWEEN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL PERSONNEL, A PUBLIC
16 SAFETY ANSWERING POINT, AND A PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY IN LIFE THREATENING
17 AND EMERGENCY SITUATIONS, INCLUDING MEDICAL EMERGENCIES AND THE
18 PRESENCE OF AN ACTIVE SHOOTER OR INTRUDER AT A PUBLIC SCHOOL DURING
19 EMERGENCY EVENTS.

20 (3) A LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM AWARDED A GRANT BY THE CENTER
21 UNDER THE PROGRAM SHALL USE THE FUNDS TO:

22 (I) IMPROVE EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS; OR

23 (II) ENHANCE COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN THE SCHOOL AND
24 WITH PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCIES.

25 (4) EACH COUNTY BOARD, IN CONSULTATION WITH LOCAL LAW
26 ENFORCEMENT AND A LOCAL PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT, MAY APPLY TO
27 THE CENTER FOR A GRANT UNDER THE PROGRAM.

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

~~(D) (C) THE COMMUNICATION PLATFORM REQUIRED UNDER~~
~~SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION SHALL~~ AN EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM
AND THE COMMUNICATIONS UNDER SUBSECTION (B)(3) OF THIS SECTION MAY
INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

(1) A CELLULAR PHONE APPLICATION-BASED ~~PANIC BUTTON~~
EMERGENCY 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~~ THE 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; AND~~

(3) INTERCOMS, SCHOOL PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEMS,
BIDIRECTIONAL ANTENNAS OR BOOSTERS, AND OTHER TECHNOLOGY THAT WILL
IMPROVE EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION AND COMMUNICATION, AS IDENTIFIED BY THE
CENTER.

~~(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) (D) (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.~~

~~(H) 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 IS
OPERATING AND AVAILABLE TO EACH COUNTY BOARD.~~

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

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

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.