

Chapter 372

(House Bill 453)

AN ACT concerning

Education – Maryland Center for School Safety

FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Center for School Safety as an independent unit of State government; establishing the location and staffing of the Center; authorizing the Center to establish satellite offices in certain locations; specifying the function and duties of the Center; establishing the Governing Board of the Maryland Center for School Safety; providing for the membership of the Governing Board; providing for the appointment and terms for certain members of the Governing Board; providing for the duties of the Governing Board; requiring the Governor to provide a certain amount in the annual State budget to carry out certain provisions of law; specifying certain funds to be used to support the operation of the Center; requiring the Governing Board to distribute a certain percentage of each grant received by the Center in a certain manner; requiring the Governing Board to make a certain report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date each year; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the establishment of the Maryland Center for School Safety.

BY adding to

Article – Education

Section 7–1501 through 7–1505 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 15.
Maryland Center for School Safety”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2008 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

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

Article – Education

SUBTITLE 15. MARYLAND CENTER FOR SCHOOL SAFETY.

7–1501.

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

(B) “CENTER” MEANS THE MARYLAND CENTER FOR SCHOOL SAFETY.

(C) “GOVERNING BOARD” MEANS THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE MARYLAND CENTER FOR SCHOOL SAFETY.

7-1502.

(A) THERE IS A MARYLAND CENTER FOR SCHOOL SAFETY.

(B) THE CENTER IS AN INDEPENDENT UNIT WITHIN STATE GOVERNMENT.

(C) THE CENTER SHALL BE BASED AT BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY.

(D) THE HEAD OF THE CENTER IS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, WHO SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNING BOARD.

(E) THE CENTER MAY EMPLOY THE ADDITIONAL STAFF NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE CENTER’S FUNCTIONS AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

(F) THE CENTER MAY ESTABLISH A SATELLITE OFFICE AT AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION LOCATED IN EACH OF THE FOLLOWING REGIONS:

- (1) THE EASTERN SHORE;**
- (2) WESTERN MARYLAND; AND**
- (3) THE BALTIMORE REGION.**

~~(F)~~ (G) THE CENTER SHALL PERFORM THE FOLLOWING FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES:

(1) COLLABORATE WITH LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS IN THE STATE, LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, PARENTS, AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS TO PROVIDE A COMPREHENSIVE, COORDINATED APPROACH TO SCHOOL SAFETY;

(2) IN PARTNERSHIP WITH STAKEHOLDERS:

(I) DISSEMINATE INFORMATION ON BEST PRACTICES, PROGRAMS, AND RESOURCES;

(II) PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING;

(III) COLLABORATE ON COLLECTION, ANALYSIS, AND INTEGRATION OF STATEWIDE DATA; AND

(IV) PROMOTE INTERAGENCY EFFORTS THAT SUPPORT SAFE SCHOOLS FOR ALL STUDENTS, SCHOOL STAFF, PARENTS, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS;

(3) ESTABLISH A SAFE SCHOOL INFORMATION AND BEST PRACTICES CLEARINGHOUSE OF UP-TO-DATE, RESEARCH-BASED, AND DATA-DRIVEN INFORMATION ON EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR CREATING AND MAINTAINING SAFE SCHOOLS;

(4) IDENTIFY SAFE SCHOOL PROFESSIONAL STAFF DEVELOPMENT BEST PRACTICES;

(5) INITIATE COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS AND FACILITATE COORDINATION AMONG LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS, LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS TO LEVERAGE EXISTING RESOURCES TO DELIVER SCHOOL SAFETY SERVICES UNIFORMLY TO LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS;

(6) PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CONSULTATION TO LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT, AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS ON BEST PRACTICES FOR SAFE SCHOOLS AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION;

(7) DEVELOP A WEB SITE CONTAINING A SEARCHABLE DATABASE OF DEFINITIVE RESEARCH, BOOKS, VIDEOS, WHITE PAPERS, SPEAKERS, WEB SITES, AND OTHER SCHOOL SAFETY RESOURCES;

(8) DEVELOP CRITERIA THAT MAY BE APPLIED CONSISTENTLY AND UNIFORMLY IN LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS FOR CODING UNSAFE INCIDENTS AND SERIOUS OR VIOLENT OFFENSES;

(9) RESEARCH AND RECOMMEND THE USE OF COMMON ASSESSMENT TOOLS TO BE USED TO IDENTIFY SPECIFIC PROBLEMS AND NEEDS OF SCHOOLS AND NEIGHBORHOODS TO FACILITATE INTERVENTION BEFORE ASSESSED FINDINGS BECOME PROBLEMATIC;

(10) ASSIST LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS TO CONDUCT A THOROUGH ASSESSMENT OF THEIR SCHOOL SAFETY DATA, SCHOOL BUILDING LAYOUTS, AND USE OF HUMAN RESOURCES FOR MONITORING PURPOSES TO DETERMINE THE NEED FOR:

**(I) SURVEILLANCE AND OTHER SECURITY TECHNOLOGY;
AND**

(II) INNOVATIONS TO MAXIMIZE THE USE OF HUMAN RESOURCES TO MONITOR ACTIVITY AND INFLUENCE POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP BUILDING;

(11) MAINTAIN AND MAXIMIZE RELATIONSHIPS WITH EMERGENCY RESPONDERS, LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL, PARENTS, AND OTHER EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS STAKEHOLDERS TO ENSURE SEAMLESS EXECUTION IN AN EMERGENCY EVENT, INCLUDING:

(I) CONSOLIDATE RESOURCES AMONG STAKEHOLDERS TO MAXIMIZE SUPPORT AND SECURE NECESSARY SKILLS TO ENSURE EMERGENCY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION;

(II) CONDUCT COLLABORATIVE TRAINING AND PREPARATION EXERCISES; AND

(III) IDENTIFY IMPROVEMENTS AND ENSURE NONDUPLICATION OF EFFORT IN EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROCEDURES;

(12) PROVIDE SAFETY INFORMATION ON TRAVELING TO AND FROM SCHOOL TO PARENTS AND STUDENTS TWICE A YEAR THAT INCLUDES DATA RELATED TO BUS AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY, STRATEGIES FOR ENSURING PERSONAL SAFETY, EFFORTS OF THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM OR SCHOOL TO IMPROVE SAFETY, AND INFORMATION ON THE AVAILABLE OPTIONS FOR REPORTING INCIDENTS OR CONCERNS;

(13) UTILIZE AND UPDATE AN EXISTING CLEARINGHOUSE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT RESOURCES THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT SCHOOL SAFETY TO ENSURE THAT IT INCLUDES INFORMATION REGARDING THE PURPOSE AND PROCESS FOR ACCESSING AVAILABLE FUNDING;

(14) ASSIST LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS TO IMPROVE AND MONITOR TRAFFIC CONTROL MEASURES IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF SCHOOLS TO REDUCE THE POTENTIAL FOR PEDESTRIAN AND VEHICLE ACCIDENTS;

(15) ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT TO EVALUATE AND UPDATE CURRENT DATA SYSTEMS TO ENSURE THEY ARE BEST SUITED FOR PROVIDING USEFUL INFORMATION ON SCHOOL SAFETY ISSUES;

(16) ASSIST LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS TO MONITOR LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM AND INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL BEHAVIOR DATA TO ENSURE FAIRNESS IN THE APPLICATION OF CONSEQUENCES FOR STUDENT MISBEHAVIOR;

(17) ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT AND LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS:

(I) TO PREPARE AN ANNUAL REPORT THAT COMBINES MULTIPLE SCHOOL SAFETY DATA SYSTEMS INTO ONE FORMAT FOR PUBLIC REVIEW; AND

(II) TO INCORPORATE NEW DATA POINTS INTO EXISTING DATA COLLECTION SYSTEMS;

(18) ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SAFETY AND SECURITY CRITERIA FOR THE DESIGN AND OPERATION OF SCHOOL FACILITIES;

(19) PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS IN THE REVIEW OF SAFETY AND SECURITY AUDITS AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF IMPROVEMENTS IN SCHOOL FACILITIES; AND

(20) FOSTER COORDINATION AMONG ALL ENTITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF SCHOOL FACILITIES IN THE STATE.

7-1503.

(A) THERE IS A GOVERNING BOARD OF THE CENTER.

(B) THE GOVERNING BOARD SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

(1) THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT, OR THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEE;

(2) THE SECRETARY OF STATE POLICE, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

(3) THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, OR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S DESIGNEE;

(4) THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

(5) A REPRESENTATIVE OF LOCAL SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS, APPOINTED BY THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS' ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND;

(6) A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF BOARDS OF EDUCATION, APPOINTED BY THE ASSOCIATION;

(7) A SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST OR SOCIOLOGIST, APPOINTED BY THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS; AND

(8) FOUR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, INCLUDING AT LEAST A PARENT OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT, A REPRESENTATIVE OF A NONPUBLIC SCHOOL, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE SENATE.

(C) THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT A CHAIR OF THE GOVERNING BOARD FROM AMONG ITS MEMBERS.

(D) A MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR:

(1) SERVES AT THE PLEASURE OF THE GOVERNOR;

(2) SERVES FOR A TERM OF 3 YEARS AND UNTIL A SUCCESSOR IS APPOINTED AND QUALIFIES; AND

(3) MAY BE REAPPOINTED BUT MAY NOT SERVE MORE THAN TWO CONSECUTIVE TERMS.

(E) A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNING BOARD:

(1) MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE GOVERNING BOARD; BUT

(2) IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

(F) THE GOVERNING BOARD SHALL:

(1) DEVELOP AN IMPLEMENTATION PLAN TO PHASE IN THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF THE CENTER;

(2) PROVIDE GENERAL OVERSIGHT AND DIRECTION TO THE CENTER; AND

- (3) APPROVE THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE CENTER.

7-1504.

(A) THE GOVERNOR SHALL PROVIDE ~~\$3,000,000~~ \$500,000 IN THE ANNUAL STATE BUDGET TO CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(B) ~~THE~~ SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, THE OPERATION OF THE CENTER SHALL BE SUPPORTED BY FUNDS:

(1) AS PROVIDED BY THE GOVERNOR IN THE ANNUAL STATE BUDGET;

(2) GRANTS OR OTHER ASSISTANCE FROM LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCIES;

(3) FEDERAL GRANTS; AND

(4) ANY OTHER GRANTS OR CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ENTITIES RECEIVED BY THE CENTER.

(C) THE GOVERNING BOARD SHALL DISTRIBUTE 10% OF EACH GRANT RECEIVED BY THE CENTER AS FOLLOWS:

(1) IF THE GRANT IS DESIGNATED FOR THE CENTER, IN EQUAL AMOUNTS TO BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY AND, IF SATELLITE OFFICES ARE ESTABLISHED UNDER § 7-1502(F) OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION WHERE SATELLITE OFFICES ARE LOCATED;

(2) IF THE GRANT IS DESIGNATED FOR THE CENTER OFFICE AT BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY OR FOR A SATELLITE OFFICE, TO THE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION WHERE THE DESIGNATED OFFICE IS LOCATED; OR

(3) IF THE GRANT IS DESIGNATED FOR A COMBINATION OF CENTER OFFICES, TO THE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION WHERE THE DESIGNATED OFFICES ARE LOCATED.

7-1505.

(A) THE GOVERNING BOARD SHALL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 15 OF EACH YEAR.

(B) THE REPORT SHALL INCLUDE:

- (1) A LIST OF ALL THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTER; AND**
- (2) AN UPDATE ON THE CURRENT STATUS AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CENTER.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2013.

Approved by the Governor, May 2, 2013.