

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2024 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

Senate Bill 929

(Senator Rosapepe)

Judicial Proceedings

---

**Sex Offender Registration - Local Law Enforcement Units - Registration Locations**

---

This bill requires each local law enforcement unit to designate multiple locations, geographically distributed throughout the county, where a registrant can register on the Maryland Sex Offender Registry.

---

**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. The bill does not affect State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** Local government expenditures increase, potentially significantly in some jurisdictions, to the extent they must establish additional registration locations. Local revenues are not affected. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

**Small Business Effect:** None.

---

**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Generally, a person convicted of a sex crime or other specified crime in Maryland, including kidnapping and false imprisonment under specified circumstances, is required to register with the State sex offender registry upon release from prison or release from court if the person did not receive a prison sentence. Offenders who are required to register in other states and who come to Maryland are required to register upon entering Maryland. Offenders from other states who may not be required to register in the home state are required to register in Maryland if the crime would have required registration in Maryland if committed in Maryland. The registry is maintained by the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services.

Generally, a sex offender must register with the appropriate supervising authority in the State prior to the registrant's release from incarceration or within three days of the date the registrant is granted probation before or after judgment, a suspended sentence, or a sentence that does not include a term of imprisonment. If the sex offender moves into the State, the registrant must register within three days of the date the registrant establishes residence in the State, begins to habitually live in the State, or applies for a driver's license in the State. If the registrant is not a resident, the registrant must register within three days after the registrant begins employment in the State, registers as a student in the State, or enters the State as a transient.

A sex offender must also register in person with the local law enforcement unit of each county where the sex offender resides within three days of (1) release from any period of imprisonment or arrest or (2) registering with the supervising authority, if the registrant is moving into the State and the local law enforcement unit is not the supervising authority.

A homeless sex offender also must register in person with the local law enforcement unit in each county where the registrant habitually lives (1) within three days after the release date or within three days after registering with the supervising authority (whichever is earlier) and (2) within three days after entering and remaining in a county. After the initial registration with a local law enforcement unit, a homeless sex offender must register once a week in person during the time the homeless registrant habitually lives in the county. These registration requirements are in addition to any other registration requirements the homeless registrant is subject to according to the registrant's classification as a Tier I sex offender, Tier II sex offender, Tier III sex offender, or sexually violent predator.

A Tier I sex offender must register in person every six months with a local law enforcement unit for 15 years. A Tier II sex offender must register in person every six months with a local law enforcement unit for 25 years. A Tier III sex offender must register in person every three months with a local law enforcement unit for the life of the registrant. If a Tier I sex offender meets specified requirements, the registration term is reduced to 10 years. In addition, the registration term is up to 5 years for specified registrants, subject to reduction by the juvenile court on the filing of a petition by the registrant for a reduction in the term of registration.

**Local Expenditures:** The bill requires each local law enforcement agency to provide multiple locations, *geographically distributed throughout the county*, where a sex offender can register. While some local jurisdictions can comply with this requirement using existing resources, others may incur significant costs to establish additional registration locations. For example, Montgomery County advises that it can meet the bill's requirements using existing resources. However, Allegany, Harford, and Talbot counties advise that costs increase to (1) procure additional building space (either by leasing space or acquiring land and constructing buildings) to establish additional registration locations;

(2) hire additional staff for those locations; and (3) acquire additional equipment for those locations (*e.g.*, digital fingerprint machines). Likewise, the Maryland Association of Counties advises that the bill could have a significant impact on local law enforcement agencies if they are required to set up registration locations in remote settings due to the bill's requirement that registration locations be geographically distributed throughout each county.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Allegany, Harford, Montgomery, and Talbot counties; Maryland Association of Counties; cities of College Park and Frostburg; Maryland Municipal League; Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 1, 2024  
km/lgc

---

Analysis by: Thomas S. Elder

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510