

SENATE BILL 624

P3, E4
SB 777/22 – JPR

4lr2969

By: **Senator Carter**

Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2024

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Public Information Act Requests Made to Law**
3 **Enforcement – Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Public Information Act Requests
5 Made to Law Enforcement; and generally relating to law enforcement and the Public
6 Information Act.

7 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
8 That:

9 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Public Information Act Requests Made to Law
10 Enforcement.

11 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

12 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
13 the Senate;

14 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
15 the House;

16 (3) the Secretary of State Police, or the Secretary's designee;

17 (4) the Public Defender, or the Public Defender's designee; and

18 (5) the following members, appointed by the President of the Senate and
19 the Speaker of the House:

20 (i) one representative of the Maryland Municipal League;

21 (ii) one representative of the Maryland Association of Counties;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (iii) one representative of the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association;
- 2 (iv) one representative of the Maryland Sheriffs' Association;
- 3 (v) one representative of the Maryland, Delaware, and District of
4 Columbia Press Association, Inc.;
- 5 (vi) one representative of the Maryland State's Attorneys'
6 Association; and
- 7 (vii) one representative of the Baltimore Legal Action Team.

8 (c) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall designate the
9 chair of the Task Force.

10 (d) The Office of the Attorney General shall provide staff for the Task Force.

11 (e) A member of the Task Force:

12 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

13 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
14 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

15 (f) The Task Force shall review and study:

16 (1) costs charged by law enforcement agencies in relation to disclosure of
17 records requested under the Maryland Public Information Act;

18 (2) procedures applied by law enforcement agencies in the disclosure of
19 records requested under the Maryland Public Information Act; and

20 (3) the status and operations of the Maryland Public Information Act
21 Compliance Board.

22 (g) (1) On or before December 31, 2024, the Task Force shall submit an interim
23 report on its findings, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, to the
24 General Assembly.

25 (2) On or before December 31, 2025, the Task Force shall submit a final
26 report on its findings, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, to the
27 General Assembly.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
29 1, 2024. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2026,

1 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and
2 of no further force and effect.