

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1394 (Delegate Crosby)
Ways and Means

Education - Provision of 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and Safe Schools
Maryland Telephone Numbers

This bill requires each local board of education, beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, to provide each student in grades 6 through 12 with the telephone numbers of the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and the Safe Schools Maryland Anonymous Tip Line. The additional information must be printed (1) prominently in the school handbook and (2) on a student's school identification card, if provided. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill only affects local government operations.

Local Effect: Local school system finances are not materially affected as the specified numbers are only required to be provided beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, which minimizes the need to reprint or re-issue school handbooks or identification cards. No effect on school systems that already include the required information in handbooks and on identification cards. Local revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapter 446 of 2010 requires each local board of education to provide each student in grades 6 through 12 with the telephone number of the Maryland Youth Crisis Hotline by (1) printing the number prominently in the school handbook and (2) printing the telephone number on a student's school identification card, if provided.

Chapter 122 of 1986 established the Youth Suicide Prevention School Program, administered by the Maryland State Department of Education in cooperation with local school systems and community suicide prevention agencies. One element of the program is the Maryland Youth Crisis Hotline, which began operation in 1990. The Maryland Youth Crisis Hotline is a decentralized hotline answered by four different call centers in Maryland. Youth aged 14 to 24 are able to call 24 hours a day and speak confidentially with a counselor about their problems.

Pursuant to Chapters 145 and 146 of 2022 and the federal National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020, the Maryland Department of Health designated 9-8-8 as the State's behavioral health crisis hotline on July 16, 2022. The [988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline](#) provides free and confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources, and best practices for professionals.

The Maryland Center for School Safety, in coordination with the Maryland Department of Emergency Management, operates an anonymous reporting system called [Safe Schools Maryland](#) that is available to public and nonpublic schools. The system includes a website, mobile application, and telephone number that students, teachers, school staff, parents, and others may use to report any school or student safety concerns. Tips are routed to appropriate school, public safety, health, or social service personnel to address the reported information. The system is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Center for School Safety; Maryland Department of Health; Maryland State Department of Education; Anne Arundel County Public Schools; Baltimore City Public Schools; Baltimore County Public Schools; Montgomery County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 4, 2024
km/jc

Analysis by: Michael E. Sousane

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