A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

9–1–1 Registry Program – Autism and Other Special Needs – Established

FOR the purpose of establishing the 9–1–1 Registry Program to alert certain first responders of certain behaviors individuals with autism or other special needs may exhibit during certain encounters with first responders; and generally relating to the 9–1–1 Registry Program.

BY adding to
Article – Public Safety
Section 1–304.4
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

Article – Public Safety

1–304.4.

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

(2) (I) “FIRST RESPONDER” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO PROVIDES SERVICES THROUGH A 9–1–1 SYSTEM.

(II) “FIRST RESPONDER” INCLUDES AN INDIVIDUAL WHO PROVIDES POLICE, FIRE FIGHTING, OR EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICES.
“Program” means the 9–1–1 Registry Program.

There is a 9–1–1 Registry Program.

The purpose of the Program is to authorize self-advocates, parents, or guardians of individuals with autism or other special needs to register with the 9–1–1 system in order to alert first responders encountering a registered individual that the individual may exhibit certain behaviors, including that the individual may be:

1. Nonverbal;
2. Oversensitive to sirens;
3. Unaware of danger; or
4. Prone to elope.

To accomplish the purpose of the Program, each public safety answering point shall:

1. Establish procedures for registering an individual with autism or other special needs;
2. Establish procedures for alerting first responders of registered individuals prior to first responders arriving at the registered individual’s address and during a time when a registered individual is stopped by the police; and
3. Ensure that the details of the Program are publicly available.

Each public safety answering point shall contact registrants annually to confirm that the information on the registered individual is current.

Section 2. And be it further enacted, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2022.