

HOUSE BILL 1176

E4

3lr2819

By: **Delegates Atterbeary and Wilson**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2023

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Voluntary 9-1-1 Registry for Individuals Needing Special Assistance**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the 9-1-1 Registry Program to alert certain first
4 responders of certain behaviors, diagnoses, or traits with which individuals with
5 special needs may present during certain encounters with first responders; requiring
6 local jurisdictions and local 9-1-1 centers to create 9-1-1 registry programs meeting
7 certain characteristics; and generally relating to the 9-1-1 Registry Program.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Public Safety

10 Section 1-304.4

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2022 Replacement Volume)

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

15 **Article – Public Safety**

16 **1-304.4.**

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

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

21 **(II) “FIRST RESPONDER” INCLUDES AN INDIVIDUAL WHO**
22 **PROVIDES POLICE, FIRE FIGHTING, OR EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICES.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(3) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE 9-1-1 REGISTRY PROGRAM.**

2 **(B) THERE IS A 9-1-1 REGISTRY PROGRAM.**

3 **(C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO AUTHORIZE INDIVIDUAL**
4 **ADULTS, PARENTS OR GUARDIANS OF MINOR CHILDREN, OR GUARDIANS OF**
5 **INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS TO REGISTER WITH A LOCAL JURISDICTION OR**
6 **LOCAL 9-1-1 CALL CENTER IN ORDER TO ALERT FIRST RESPONDERS**
7 **ENCOUNTERING A REGISTERED INDIVIDUAL THAT THE INDIVIDUAL:**

8 **(1) MAY EXHIBIT CERTAIN BEHAVIORS, INCLUDING THAT THE**
9 **INDIVIDUAL MAY BE:**

10 **(I) NONSPEAKING OR THE USER OF A COMMUNICATION**
11 **DEVICE;**

12 **(II) SENSITIVE TO LOUD SOUNDS;**

13 **(III) SENSITIVE TO BRIGHT LIGHTS;**

14 **(IV) SENSITIVE TO TOUCH;**

15 **(V) DELAYED WITH RESPONSE TIMES;**

16 **(VI) PRONE TO AVOID EYE CONTACT;**

17 **(VII) UNAWARE OF DANGER; OR**

18 **(VIII) PRONE TO WANDER OR ELOPE; OR**

19 **(2) HAS ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING DIAGNOSES OR TRAITS:**

20 **(I) BLIND OR SIGHT IMPAIRED;**

21 **(II) DEAF OR HEARING IMPAIRED;**

22 **(III) WHEELCHAIR USER;**

23 **(IV) ALZHEIMER'S OR DEMENTIA;**

24 **(V) AUTISM;**

25 **(VI) MENTAL HEALTH DISABILITY;**

1 (VII) INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY;

2 (VIII) PHYSICAL DISABILITY; OR

3 (IX) DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY.

4 (D) TO ACCOMPLISH THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM, EACH LOCAL
5 JURISDICTION OR LOCAL 9-1-1 CALL CENTER SHALL:

6 (1) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTIONS (E) AND (F) OF THIS SECTION,
7 ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR REGISTERING AN INDIVIDUAL WITH SPECIAL NEEDS;

8 (2) ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR ALERTING FIRST RESPONDERS OF
9 REGISTERED INDIVIDUALS PRIOR TO FIRST RESPONDERS ARRIVING AT A
10 REGISTERED INDIVIDUAL'S ADDRESS AND DURING A TIME WHEN A REGISTERED
11 INDIVIDUAL IS ENGAGED WITH FIRST RESPONDERS; AND

12 (3) ENSURE THAT THE DETAILS OF THE PROGRAM ARE PUBLICLY
13 AVAILABLE.

14 (E) (1) AN INDIVIDUAL ADULT, PARENTS OR LEGAL GUARDIANS OF
15 MINORS, OR GUARDIANS OF INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS SHALL PROVIDE
16 THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WHEN REGISTERING AN INDIVIDUAL WITH SPECIAL
17 NEEDS:

18 (I) NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH OF THE INDIVIDUAL;

19 (II) NAME OF THE PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A MINOR
20 CHILD OR GUARDIAN OF AN INDIVIDUAL WITH SPECIAL NEEDS;

21 (III) RELATIONSHIP TO THE INDIVIDUAL;

22 (IV) PREFERRED PHONE NUMBER OF THE INDIVIDUAL, PARENT
23 OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A MINOR CHILD, GUARDIAN OF AN INDIVIDUAL WITH
24 SPECIAL NEEDS, OR OTHER PREFERRED CONTACT;

25 (V) PREFERRED E-MAIL OF THE PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN;

26 (VI) ADDRESS OF THE PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN AND THE
27 INDIVIDUAL; AND

28 (VII) PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES OF THE INDIVIDUAL.

1 **(2) AN INDIVIDUAL ADULT, PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A**
2 **MINOR, OR GUARDIAN OF AN INDIVIDUAL WITH SPECIAL NEEDS MAY SUBMIT A**
3 **RECENT PHOTO OF THE INDIVIDUAL WHEN REGISTERING AN INDIVIDUAL WITH**
4 **SPECIAL NEEDS.**

5 **(F) INDIVIDUAL ADULTS, PARENTS OR LEGAL GUARDIANS OF MINOR**
6 **CHILDREN, OR GUARDIANS OF INDIVIDUALS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS SHALL SIGN A**
7 **DISCLAIMER FORM THAT INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING CONTENT:**

8 **“I CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION ABOVE IS CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY**
9 **KNOWLEDGE. BY SIGNING THIS FORM, I GIVE AUTHORIZATION FOR THE MEDICAL**
10 **INFORMATION HEREIN TO BE RELAYED TO THE LOCAL JURISDICTION OR LOCAL**
11 **9-1-1 CALL CENTER FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS**
12 **INFORMATION WILL BE UTILIZED BY THE LOCAL JURISDICTION OR LOCAL 9-1-1**
13 **CALL CENTER AND OTHER FIRST RESPONDERS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN**
14 **EMERGENCY SITUATIONS. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS WILL NOT BE FORWARDED TO**
15 **COMMERCIAL OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS FOR ANY REASON. I PROVIDE AND**
16 **RELEASE THIS INFORMATION VOLUNTARILY.**

17 **I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS INFORMATION IS CONFIDENTIAL, IS NOT SHARED WITH**
18 **OUTSIDE ENTITIES, AND IS USED ONLY FOR THE USE AND BENEFIT OF FIRST**
19 **RESPONDERS.**

20 **I CERTIFY THAT I AM THE PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF THE MINOR CHILD OR**
21 **GUARDIAN OF THE INDIVIDUAL WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.**

22 **I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS REGISTRATION IS VALID FOR ONLY 1 YEAR, AND**
23 **REQUIRES THAT I CONFIRM THIS INFORMATION IS CORRECT TO CONTINUE USING**
24 **THIS INFORMATION IN THE REGISTRY. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS PROFILE AND ITS**
25 **CONTENTS WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY DELETED WITHOUT ANNUAL REGISTRATION. I**
26 **AUTHORIZE THAT I MAY BE CONTACTED BY E-MAIL, PHONE, OR BOTH TO RECEIVE**
27 **REGISTRATION REMINDERS AND UPDATES.”**

28 **(G) (1) EACH LOCAL JURISDICTION OR LOCAL 9-1-1 CALL CENTER**
29 **SHALL CONTACT REGISTRANTS ANNUALLY TO CONFIRM WHETHER THE REGISTERED**
30 **INDIVIDUAL SHALL REMAIN ON THE REGISTRY AND, IF SO, WHETHER THE**
31 **INFORMATION ON THE REGISTERED INDIVIDUAL IS CORRECT.**

32 **(2) IF A REGISTRANT IS UNRESPONSIVE TO ATTEMPTS MADE BY THE**
33 **LOCAL JURISDICTION OR LOCAL 9-1-1 CALL CENTER TO UPDATE OR VALIDATE**
34 **INFORMATION ON THE REGISTRY AFTER 2 YEARS, THE REGISTRANT SHALL BE**
35 **REMOVED FROM THE REGISTRY.**

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 October 1, 2023.