

# HOUSE BILL 1176

E4

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By: Delegates Atterbeary and Wilson, Wilson, Alston, Bagnall, Bhandari, Cullison, Guzzone, Hill, S. Johnson, Kaiser, Kerr, R. Lewis, Lopez, Martinez, Pena-Melnyk, Rosenberg, Taveras, White, and Woods

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2023

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 10, 2023

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Public Safety – Voluntary 9–1–1 Registry for Individuals Needing Special  
3 Assistance

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

9 BY adding to

10 Article – Public Safety

11 Section 1–304.4

12 Annotated Code of Maryland

13 (2022 Replacement Volume)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

15 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article – Public Safety**

17 **1–304.4.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

3 (2) (I) "FIRST RESPONDER" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO  
4 PROVIDES SERVICES THROUGH A 9-1-1 SYSTEM.

5 (II) "FIRST RESPONDER" INCLUDES AN INDIVIDUAL WHO  
6 PROVIDES POLICE, FIRE FIGHTING, OR EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICES.

7 (3) "GUARDIAN" DOES NOT INCLUDE A PUBLIC GUARDIAN  
8 APPOINTED BY THE COURT.

9 ~~(3)~~ (4) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE 9-1-1 REGISTRY PROGRAM.

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

11 (C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO AUTHORIZE INDIVIDUAL  
12 ADULTS, PARENTS OR GUARDIANS OF MINOR CHILDREN, OR GUARDIANS OF  
13 INDIVIDUALS ~~WITH SPECIAL NEEDS~~ TO REGISTER WITH A LOCAL JURISDICTION OR  
14 LOCAL 9-1-1 CALL CENTER IN ORDER TO ALERT FIRST RESPONDERS  
15 ENCOUNTERING A REGISTERED INDIVIDUAL THAT THE INDIVIDUAL:

16 (1) MAY EXHIBIT CERTAIN BEHAVIORS, INCLUDING THAT THE  
17 INDIVIDUAL MAY BE:

18 (I) NONSPEAKING OR THE USER OF A COMMUNICATION  
19 DEVICE;

20 (II) SENSITIVE TO LOUD SOUNDS;

21 (III) SENSITIVE TO BRIGHT LIGHTS;

22 (IV) SENSITIVE TO TOUCH;

23 (V) DELAYED WITH RESPONSE TIMES;

24 (VI) PRONE TO AVOID EYE CONTACT;

25 (VII) UNAWARE OF DANGER; OR

26 (VIII) PRONE TO WANDER OR ELOPE; OR

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

28 (I) BLIND OR ~~SIGHT IMPAIRED~~ LOW VISION;

1 (II) DEAF OR ~~HEARING IMPAIRED~~ HARD OF HEARING;

2 (III) WHEELCHAIR USER;

3 (IV) ALZHEIMER'S OR DEMENTIA;

4 (V) AUTISM;

5 (VI) MENTAL HEALTH DISABILITY;

6 (VII) INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY;

7 (VIII) PHYSICAL DISABILITY; OR

8 (IX) DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY.

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

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

13 (2) ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR ALERTING FIRST RESPONDERS OF  
14 REGISTERED INDIVIDUALS PRIOR TO FIRST RESPONDERS ARRIVING AT A  
15 REGISTERED INDIVIDUAL'S ADDRESS AND DURING A TIME WHEN A REGISTERED  
16 INDIVIDUAL IS ENGAGED WITH FIRST RESPONDERS; AND

17 (3) ENSURE THAT THE DETAILS OF THE PROGRAM ARE PUBLICLY  
18 AVAILABLE.

19 (E) (1) AN INDIVIDUAL ADULT, PARENTS OR LEGAL GUARDIANS OF  
20 MINORS, OR GUARDIANS OF INDIVIDUALS ~~WITH SPECIAL NEEDS~~ SHALL PROVIDE  
21 THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WHEN REGISTERING AN INDIVIDUAL ~~WITH SPECIAL~~  
22 ~~NEEDS:~~

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

24 (II) NAME OF THE PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A MINOR  
25 CHILD OR GUARDIAN OF AN INDIVIDUAL ~~WITH SPECIAL NEEDS;~~

26 (III) RELATIONSHIP TO THE INDIVIDUAL;

1 (IV) PREFERRED PHONE NUMBER OF THE INDIVIDUAL ADULT,  
2 PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A MINOR CHILD, OR GUARDIAN OF AN INDIVIDUAL  
3 ~~WITH SPECIAL NEEDS~~, OR OTHER PREFERRED CONTACT;

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

5 (VI) ADDRESS OF THE PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN AND THE  
6 INDIVIDUAL; AND

7 (VII) PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES OF THE INDIVIDUAL.

8 (2) AN INDIVIDUAL ADULT, PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A  
9 MINOR, OR GUARDIAN OF AN INDIVIDUAL ~~WITH SPECIAL NEEDS~~ MAY SUBMIT A  
10 RECENT PHOTO OF THE INDIVIDUAL WHEN REGISTERING AN INDIVIDUAL ~~WITH~~  
11 ~~SPECIAL NEEDS~~.

12 (F) INDIVIDUAL ADULTS, PARENTS OR LEGAL GUARDIANS OF MINOR  
13 CHILDREN, OR GUARDIANS OF INDIVIDUALS ~~WITH SPECIAL NEEDS~~ SHALL SIGN A  
14 DISCLAIMER FORM THAT INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING CONTENT:

15 “I CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION ABOVE IS CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY  
16 KNOWLEDGE. BY SIGNING THIS FORM, I GIVE AUTHORIZATION FOR THE MEDICAL  
17 INFORMATION HEREIN TO BE RELAYED TO THE LOCAL JURISDICTION OR LOCAL  
18 9-1-1 CALL CENTER FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS  
19 INFORMATION WILL BE UTILIZED BY THE LOCAL JURISDICTION OR LOCAL 9-1-1  
20 CALL CENTER AND OTHER FIRST RESPONDERS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN  
21 EMERGENCY SITUATIONS. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS WILL NOT BE FORWARDED TO  
22 COMMERCIAL OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS FOR ANY REASON. I PROVIDE AND  
23 RELEASE THIS INFORMATION VOLUNTARILY.

24 I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS INFORMATION IS CONFIDENTIAL, IS NOT SHARED WITH  
25 OUTSIDE ENTITIES, AND IS USED ONLY FOR THE USE AND BENEFIT OF FIRST  
26 RESPONDERS.

27 I CERTIFY THAT I AM THE INDIVIDUAL ADULT, PARENT, OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF THE  
28 MINOR CHILD OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF THE INDIVIDUAL ~~WITH SPECIAL NEEDS~~.

29 I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS REGISTRATION IS VALID FOR ONLY 1 YEAR, AND  
30 REQUIRES THAT I CONFIRM THIS INFORMATION IS CORRECT TO CONTINUE USING  
31 THIS INFORMATION IN THE REGISTRY. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS PROFILE AND ITS  
32 CONTENTS WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY DELETED WITHOUT ANNUAL REGISTRATION. I  
33 AUTHORIZE THAT I MAY BE CONTACTED BY E-MAIL, PHONE, OR BOTH TO RECEIVE  
34 REGISTRATION REMINDERS AND UPDATES.”

1           (G) (1) ~~EACH LOCAL JURISDICTION OR LOCAL 9-1-1 CALL CENTER~~  
2 ~~SHALL CONTACT REGISTRANTS ANNUALLY TO CONFIRM WHETHER THE REGISTERED~~  
3 ~~INDIVIDUAL SHALL REMAIN ON THE REGISTRY AND, IF SO, WHETHER THE~~  
4 ~~INFORMATION ON THE REGISTERED INDIVIDUAL IS CORRECT~~ EACH REGISTRANT  
5 SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANNUALLY CONFIRMING WHETHER THE REGISTERED  
6 INDIVIDUAL SHALL REMAIN ON THE REGISTRY AND, IF SO, WHETHER THE  
7 INFORMATION ON THE REGISTERED INDIVIDUAL IS CORRECT.

8           (2) ~~IF A REGISTRANT IS UNRESPONSIVE TO ATTEMPTS MADE BY THE~~  
9 ~~LOCAL JURISDICTION OR LOCAL 9-1-1 CALL CENTER TO UPDATE OR VALIDATE~~  
10 ~~INFORMATION ON THE REGISTRY AFTER 2 YEARS, THE REGISTRANT SHALL BE~~  
11 ~~REMOVED FROM THE REGISTRY~~ IF A REGISTRANT DOES NOT UPDATE OR VALIDATE  
12 INFORMATION ON THE REGISTRY AFTER 1 YEAR, THE REGISTERED INDIVIDUAL  
13 SHALL BE REMOVED FROM THE REGISTRY.

14           (H) (1) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE CONSTRUED TO CREATE A  
15 PRIVATE CAUSE OF ACTION BY ANY PERSON.

16           (2) NONCOMPLIANCE WITH INFORMATION IN THE REGISTRY IS NOT  
17 ADMISSIBLE IN ANY SUIT SEEKING TO IMPOSE CIVIL LIABILITY ARISING OUT OF A  
18 9-1-1 CALL.

19           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before December 1,  
20 2028, the Maryland 9-1-1 Board shall report to the Senate Finance Committee and the  
21 House Health and Government Operations Committee, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the  
22 State Government Article, on:

23           (1) the number of individuals registered in the 9-1-1 Registry Program  
24 established under Section 1 of this Act in each county for each of the previous 5 fiscal years;

25           (2) the number of Program registrants who confirm information necessary  
26 to remain registered each fiscal year, by county;

27           (3) aggregated feedback received by the Board from local jurisdictions,  
28 local 9-1-1 call centers, or first responders regarding the Program; and

29           (4) recommended changes to improve the effectiveness of the Program, if  
30 any.

31           SECTION ~~2.~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
32 October 1, 2023.