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By: Senator Waldstreicher

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2023 Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

Maryland Center for School Safety – Statewide Secure Schools Emergency Response Program – Established

FOR the purpose of establishing the Statewide Secure Schools Emergency Response
Program to be administered by the Maryland Center for School Safety; prohibiting
the inspection of certain records related to the Program; requiring the Maryland
9–1–1 Board to establish procedures to integrate county 9–1–1 systems with the
Program; and generally relating to the establishment of the Statewide Secure
Schools Emergency Response Program.

- 10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
- 11 Article Education
- 12 Section 7–1502(a)
- 13 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 14 (2022 Replacement Volume)
- 15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
- 16 Article Education
- 17 Section 7–1502(g)(20) and (21)
- 18 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 19 (2022 Replacement Volume)
- 20 BY adding to
- 21 Article Education
- 22 Section 7–1502(g)(22) and 7–1513
- 23 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 24 (2022 Replacement Volume)
- 25 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
- 26 Article General Provisions
- 27 Section 4–314.1

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW. [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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1 Annotated Code of Maryland $\mathbf{2}$ (2019 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement) 3 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments, Article – Public Safety 4 Section 1–301(a), (j), (t), and (u) and 1–305(a) $\mathbf{5}$ Annotated Code of Maryland 6 (2022 Replacement Volume) 7 8 BY adding to 9 Article – Public Safety 10 Section 1-306(h)Annotated Code of Maryland 11 (2022 Replacement Volume) 12SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, 13 14That the Laws of Maryland read as follows: **Article – Education** 1516 7 - 1502. There is a Maryland Center for School Safety. 17(a) The Center shall perform the following functions and duties: 18 (g) 19 Review and comment on school emergency plans developed under § (20)207–1510 of this subtitle; [and] 21 Report to the General Assembly and the Governor on life-threatening (21)incidents as required under § 7–1510 of this subtitle; AND 2223(22) ADMINISTER THE STATEWIDE SECURE SCHOOLS EMERGENCY **RESPONSE PROGRAM UNDER § 7–1513 OF THIS SUBTITLE.** 24257-1513. **(**A**)** 26(1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS 27INDICATED. "FIRST RESPONDER" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 1-301 OF 28(2) THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE. 2930 "PANIC BUTTON EVENT" MEANS AN EMERGENCY SITUATION THAT (3) 31 COMPELS THE USER OF AN EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM TO PRESS A PANIC

SENATE BILL 677

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1 BUTTON TO INSTANTLY SUMMON HELP TO THEIR LOCATION FROM FIRST 2 RESPONDERS OR OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY PERSONNEL.

3 (4) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE STATEWIDE SECURE SCHOOLS 4 EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM.

5 (5) "PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 1–301 6 OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE.

7 (6) "PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT" HAS THE MEANING STATED 8 IN § 1–301 OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE.

9 (B) (1) THERE IS A STATEWIDE SECURE SCHOOLS EMERGENCY 10 RESPONSE PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE CENTER.

11 (2) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO IMPROVE THE SAFETY AND 12 SECURITY OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE STATE BY IMPLEMENTING A STATEWIDE 13 EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM THAT FACILITATES COMMUNICATION BETWEEN 14 PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL PERSONNEL, A PUBLIC SAFETY 15 ANSWERING POINT, AND A PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY IN LIFE-THREATENING AND 16 EMERGENCY SITUATIONS, INCLUDING AN ACTIVE SHOOTER, A MEDICAL 17 EMERGENCY, SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS, OR AN INTRUDER.

18 (C) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2023, THE CENTER, IN CONSULTATION 19 WITH THE MARYLAND 9–1–1 BOARD, SHALL ENSURE THAT THE PROGRAM HAS BEEN 20 IMPLEMENTED IN EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL IN THE STATE.

21**(**D**)** THE PROGRAM SHALL PROCURE AND IMPLEMENT A SINGLE TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM FOR A SECURE SCHOOLS EMERGENCY RESPONSE 22**PROGRAM THROUGH WHICH AUTHORIZED USERS ARE ABLE TO CONTACT A PUBLIC** 2324SAFETY ANSWERING POINT ТО **REPORT** AND COMMUNICATE DURING 25LIFE-THREATENING OR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.

26 **(E)** THE TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION **(D)** OF 27 THIS SECTION SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

(1) A CELLULAR PHONE APPLICATION-BASED, PANIC BUTTON EVENT
 SYSTEM THAT CAN BE INTEGRATED WITH A LOCAL PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING
 POINT THAT IS ABLE TO:

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(I) PLACE A STANDARD TELEPHONE CALL TO 9-1-1;

1(II) TEXT COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN AUTHORIZED USERS2AND A PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT AND PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY;

3 (III) PROVIDE TEXT MESSAGES, E-MAILS, AND PUSH
 4 NOTIFICATIONS TO AUTHORIZED USERS, INCLUDING SCHOOL PERSONNEL, FIRST
 5 RESPONDERS, AND OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY PERSONNEL;

6 (IV) AUTOMATICALLY DETECT 9–1–1 CALLS RELATING TO A 7 PUBLIC SCHOOL, INCLUDING CALLS MADE FROM A LANDLINE, CELLULAR PHONE, OR 8 SMARTPHONE APPLICATION;

9 (V) ALLOW 9–1–1 DISPATCHERS, FIRST RESPONDERS, OR 10 OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY PERSONNEL TO INITIATE A PANIC BUTTON EVENT 11 AT A PUBLIC SCHOOL AND TO FACILITATE COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION 12 BETWEEN FIRST RESPONDERS OR PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY PERSONNEL DURING AN 13 EMERGENCY SITUATION; AND

(VI) AUTOMATICALLY TRANSMIT SCHOOL FLOOR PLANS,
SCHOOL EMERGENCY PLANS, AND RELEVANT CONTACT INFORMATION TO FIRST
RESPONDERS OR PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY PERSONNEL RESPONDING TO A PANIC
BUTTON EVENT AT A SCHOOL WITHOUT FURTHER ACTION NEEDED BY THE USER
REPORTING THE EMERGENCY;

19(2)ACTIVATION OF DIFFERENT SYSTEM RESPONSES BASED ON THE20LOCATION OF THE USER INITIATING A PANIC BUTTON EVENT, INCLUDING:

21 (I) PLACEMENT OF A 9–1–1 CALL IF A REPORT IS INITIATED 22 OUTSIDE A SYSTEM–DESIGNATED GEOFENCE; OR

23 (II) PLACEMENT OF A 9–1–1 CALL AND SENDING OF PUSH 24 NOTIFICATIONS IF A REPORT IS INITIATED WITHIN A SYSTEM-DESIGNATED 25 GEOFENCE;

(3) CAPABILITY TO GENERATE AN AUTOMATED EMERGENCY ALERT
NOTIFICATION TO ALL PUBLIC AND NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS IN AN AREA IN
REASONABLE PROXIMITY TO A PANIC BUTTON EVENT THAT IS DETERMINED TO BE
AN IMMINENT THREAT TO SCHOOL CAMPUSES OR SCHOOL PERSONNEL BY THE
PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT RECEIVING THE REPORT, INCLUDING REPORTS
OF:

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- (I) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO WAS KILLED;

1 (II) AN ACCIDENT OR THREAT THAT RESULTED IN SERIOUS 2 BODILY INJURY;

3 (III) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO WAS ASSAULTED WITH A DEADLY 4 WEAPON AND THAT THE ALLEGED ASSAILANT REMAINS AT LARGE; AND

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(IV) THE DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM; AND

6 (4) REAL-TIME COMMUNICATION CAPABILITIES TO ALLOW A PUBLIC 7 SAFETY ANSWERING POINT AND OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY AGENCY PERSONNEL TO 8 VERIFY THE AUTHENTICITY OF REPORTS OF PANIC BUTTON EVENTS IF THERE IS A 9 SUSPICION OR EVIDENCE THAT IT IS A FALSE REPORT MADE BY A THIRD-PARTY, 10 NONAUTHORIZED USER.

(F) (1) THE TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM PROCURED UNDER SUBSECTION
 (D) OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE CERTIFIED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
 OF HOMELAND SECURITY UNDER THE FEDERAL SUPPORT ANTI-TERRORISM BY
 FOSTERING EFFECTIVE TECHNOLOGIES ACT.

15(2)EACH LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM SHALL PROVIDE TO THE CENTER16FOR EACH PUBLIC SCHOOL IN ITS JURISDICTION:

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- (I) SCHOOL FLOOR PLANS;
- 18 (II) EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANS; AND

19(III) ACCESS TO OR GEOLOCATION COORDINATES FOR THE20PROPERTY BOUNDARIES FOR EACH SCHOOL.

21 (3) THE CENTER SHALL PROVIDE THE INFORMATION COMPILED 22 UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION TO THE VENDOR IMPLEMENTING THE 23 TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM FOR THE PROGRAM.

(G) A PERSON PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING CENTER
EMPLOYEES AND PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT EMPLOYEES, IS IMMUNE FROM
CIVIL OR CRIMINAL LIABILITY IF THE PERSON ACTS IN GOOD FAITH WHEN
RESPONDING TO A REPORTED THREAT OR EMERGENCY SITUATION.

28 (H) (1) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE 29 ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF \$4,500,000 FOR THE PROGRAM.

FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, 1 (2) $\mathbf{2}$ THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION 3 OF \$1,000,000 FOR THE PROGRAM. 4 **Article – General Provisions** $\mathbf{5}$ 4 - 314.1.6 Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, a custodian shall deny (a) 7 inspection of any record disclosing: 8 a safety evaluation or school emergency plan developed under § 7–1510 (1)9 of the Education Article: 10 an emergency response policy developed under § 7-1509 of the (2)11 Education Article and § 3–520 of the Public Safety Article; 12(3)guidelines for school resource officers and supplemental coverage by 13local law enforcement agencies developed by the Maryland Center for School Safety under 14§ 7–1508 of the Education Article; [or] 15a plan to implement the Maryland Center for School Safety's guidelines (4)16adopted by a local school system under § 7–1508 of the Education Article; OR 17(5) A PLAN OR OTHER INFORMATION CREATED FOR, PROVIDED TO, OR DEVELOPED THROUGH THE STATEWIDE SECURE SCHOOLS EMERGENCY RESPONSE 18 19 **PROGRAM UNDER § 7–1513 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE.** 20(b) A custodian shall allow inspection of safety evaluation, school emergency plan, 21and emergency response policy records by the following entities in the performance of the 22entity's official duties: 23the Maryland Center for School Safety; (1)24(2)the Interagency Commission on School Construction; 25(3)the Department of State Police; 26(4) the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; 27the Maryland Department of Emergency Management; (5)28local law enforcement agencies; and (6)29(7)local organizations for emergency management.

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1	Article – Public Safety	
2	1–301.	
3	(a) In t	his subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.
4 5	(j) (1) "First responder" means an employee of a State or local public safety agency that provides emergency response services.	
6	(2)	"First responder" includes:
7		(i) a firefighter;
8		(ii) a paramedic;
9		(iii) an emergency medical technician;
10		(iv) a rescue squad member;
11		(v) a sworn member of the Office of the State Fire Marshal;
$\begin{array}{c} 12\\ 13 \end{array}$	employee under	(vi) a member of a volunteer fire or rescue company who is a covered § 9–234 of the Labor and Employment Article;
$\begin{array}{c} 14 \\ 15 \end{array}$	(vii) an individual who is licensed or certified under § 13–516 of the Education Article; and	
16		(viii) a 9–1–1 specialist.
17	(t) "Pu	blic safety agency" means:
18 19	(1) police, medical, o	a functional division of a public agency that provides fire fighting, or other emergency services; or
$\begin{array}{c} 20\\ 21 \end{array}$	(2) emergency servio	a private entity that provides fire fighting, police, medical, or other ces on a voluntary basis.
22	(u) "Pu	blic safety answering point" means a communications facility that:
23	(1)	is operated on a 24-hour basis;
$\begin{array}{c} 24 \\ 25 \end{array}$	(2) area; and	first receives 9–1–1 requests for emergency services in a 9–1–1 service
26	(3)	as appropriate:
27		(i) dispatches public safety services directly;

1 (ii) transmits incident data to appropriate public safety agencies 2 within the State for the dispatch of public safety services; or

3 (iii) transfers 9-1-1 requests for emergency services or transmits
4 incident data to:

5 1. an appropriate federal emergency communication center 6 responsible for the delivery of public safety services on a federal campus or federal 7 reservation; or

8 2. an appropriate public safety answering point located9 within or outside the State.

10 1–305.

(a) There is a Maryland 9–1–1 Board in the Maryland Department of Emergency
 Management.

13 1-306.

(H) (1) THE BOARD SHALL AID THE MARYLAND CENTER FOR SCHOOL SAFETY IN OPERATING THE STATEWIDE SECURE SCHOOLS EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM ESTABLISHED UNDER § 7–1513 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE.

17 (2) THE BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH PROCEDURES TO INTEGRATE 18 COUNTY 9–1–1 SYSTEMS WITH THE STATEWIDE SECURE SCHOOLS EMERGENCY 19 RESPONSE PROGRAM.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 21 1, 2023.

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