

# SENATE BILL 785

E4, P1

3lr2030

CF 3lr1204

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By: Senator Hettleman

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2023

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Department of Emergency Management – Office of Domestic**  
3 **Terrorism Response**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Office of Domestic Terrorism Response within the  
5 Maryland Department of Emergency Management for the purpose of implementing  
6 measures to prepare for, prevent, and recover from domestic terrorism and hate  
7 crimes; requiring the Maryland Task Force on Preventing and Countering Domestic  
8 Terrorism to serve in an advisory role for the Office; and generally relating to  
9 emergency management and the Office of Domestic Terrorism Response.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
11 Article – Public Safety  
12 Section 14–101(a) and (b)  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2022 Replacement Volume)

15 BY adding to  
16 Article – Public Safety  
17 Section 14–104.3  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2022 Replacement Volume)

20 Preamble

21 WHEREAS, In accordance with the Joint Chairmen's Report on the Operating  
22 Budget for fiscal 2023, the Maryland Department of Emergency Management submitted  
23 the Summary Report and Recommendations of the Task Force on Preventing and  
24 Countering Domestic Terrorism in December 2022; and

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           WHEREAS, The report of the Task Force on Preventing and Countering Domestic  
2 Terrorism made several recommendations following a series of meetings focused on how to  
3 deter domestic terrorism in Maryland; and

4            WHEREAS, One of the recommendations from the report was to invest in a  
5 permanent State of Maryland capability focused on the prevention of violent extremist acts;  
6 and

7           WHEREAS, In the United States, since the early 1980s, domestic terrorist attacks  
8 are occurring more frequently, and hate crimes, as reported to the Federal Bureau of  
9 Investigation, are the highest they have been in over a decade; now, therefore,

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

## Article – Public Safety

13 14-101.

14 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

15 (b) "Department" means the Maryland Department of Emergency Management.

16 14-104.3.

17 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "OFFICE" MEANS THE OFFICE OF DOMESTIC  
18 TERRORISM RESPONSE.

19 (B) (1) THERE IS AN OFFICE OF DOMESTIC TERRORISM RESPONSE IN  
20 THE DEPARTMENT.

23 (C) THE OFFICE SHALL COORDINATE WITH FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL  
24 AGENCIES IN DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING PLANS TO:

25 (1) MAXIMIZE THE ROLE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION PLAY  
26 IN RESEARCHING AND DEVELOPING PROFESSIONAL TRAINING ON THE PREVENTION  
27 OF VIOLENT EXTREMIST ACT:

28 (2) RAISE AWARENESS AMONG THE PUBLIC ABOUT VIOLENT  
29 EXTREMISM, INCLUDING VIOLENT EXTREMISM ASSOCIATED WITH HATE CRIMES,  
30 DOMESTIC TERRORISM AND INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM;

3 (4) FACILITATE THE REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION OF  
4 INDIVIDUALS WHO PARTICIPATE IN VIOLENT EXTREMISM.

5 (D) THE MARYLAND TASK FORCE ON PREVENTING AND COUNTERING  
6 DOMESTIC TERRORISM SHALL SERVE IN AN ADVISORY ROLE FOR THE OFFICE.

10 (1) THE ACTIVITIES OF THE OFFICE;

11 (2) ANY RECOMMENDED LEGISLATION; AND

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