

# HOUSE BILL 416

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HB 515/23 – W&M

4r1053  
CF 4r2018

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By: **Delegates Solomon and Atterbeary**  
Introduced and read first time: January 18, 2024  
Assigned to: Ways and Means

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Schools – Active Shooter Safety Drills or Trainings – Requirements**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Center for School Safety to collaborate with an  
4 institution of higher education or a designated federal or national research entity to  
5 study the effectiveness and psychological impact of active shooter safety drills or  
6 trainings by researching and analyzing certain data collected by local school systems;  
7 requiring the Center to identify best practices for active shooter safety drills or  
8 trainings by a certain date and periodically thereafter; authorizing the State  
9 Department of Education to adopt regulations to incorporate active shooter safety  
10 drills or trainings in the annual schedule of drills for local school systems; requiring  
11 the Department to annually review the best practices identified by the Center  
12 regarding active shooter safety drills and update the drills and trainings  
13 incorporated into the annual schedule of drills; requiring local school systems to take  
14 certain actions regarding active shooter safety drills or trainings, including collecting  
15 and reporting certain data to the Center, and providing certain notice to parents,  
16 students, and school personnel; requiring the Center to develop model content  
17 regarding the State’s laws on safe firearm storage and requiring local school systems  
18 to distribute the model content to parents at the beginning of each school year; and  
19 generally relating to active shooter safety drills or trainings in public schools.

20 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
21 Article – Education  
22 Section 7–1502(a)  
23 Annotated Code of Maryland  
24 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

25 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
26 Article – Education  
27 Section 7–1502(g) and 7–1509  
28 Annotated Code of Maryland  
29 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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



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

3 **Article – Education**

4 7–1502.

5 (a) There is a Maryland Center for School Safety.

6 (g) The Center shall perform the following functions and duties:

7 (1) Provide technical assistance and consultation to local school systems,  
8 State and local government, and community organizations on best practices for safe schools  
9 and violence prevention;

10 (2) Develop a website containing a searchable database of definitive  
11 research, books, videos, white papers, speakers, websites, and other school safety resources;

12 (3) Develop criteria that may be applied consistently and uniformly in local  
13 school systems for coding unsafe incidents and serious or violent offenses;

14 (4) Research and recommend the use of common assessment tools to be  
15 used to identify specific problems and needs of schools and neighborhoods to facilitate  
16 intervention before assessed findings become problematic;

17 (5) Assist local school systems to conduct a thorough assessment of their  
18 school safety data, school building layouts, and use of human resources for monitoring  
19 purposes to determine the need for:

20 (i) Surveillance and other security technology; and

21 (ii) Innovations to maximize the use of human resources to monitor  
22 activity and influence positive relationship building;

23 (6) Maintain and maximize relationships with emergency responders, law  
24 enforcement personnel, parents, and other emergency preparedness stakeholders to ensure  
25 seamless execution in an emergency event, including:

26 (i) Consolidate resources among stakeholders to maximize support  
27 and secure necessary skills to ensure emergency plan implementation;

28 (ii) Conduct collaborative training and preparation exercises; and

29 (iii) Identify improvements and ensure nonduplication of effort in  
30 emergency response procedures;

1 (7) Provide safety information on traveling to and from school to parents  
2 and students twice a year that includes data related to bus and pedestrian safety, strategies  
3 for ensuring personal safety, efforts of the local school system or school to improve safety,  
4 and information on the available options for reporting incidents or concerns;

5 (8) Utilize and update an existing clearinghouse of law enforcement  
6 resources that are available to support school safety to ensure that it includes information  
7 regarding the purpose and process for accessing available funding;

8 (9) Assist local school systems to improve and monitor traffic control  
9 measures in the immediate vicinity of schools to reduce the potential for pedestrian and  
10 vehicle accidents;

11 (10) Assist the Department to evaluate and update current data systems to  
12 ensure they are best suited for providing useful information on school safety issues;

13 (11) Assist local school systems to monitor local school system and  
14 individual school behavior data to ensure fairness in the application of consequences for  
15 student misbehavior;

16 (12) Assist the Department and local school systems:

17 (i) To prepare an annual report that combines multiple school safety  
18 data systems into one format for public review; and

19 (ii) To incorporate new data points into existing data collection  
20 systems;

21 (13) Assist in the development of safety and security criteria for the design  
22 and operation of school facilities;

23 (14) Assist local school systems to identify resources and implement training  
24 for students and parents about relationship violence, identifying the signs of unhealthy  
25 relationships, and preventing relationship violence;

26 (15) Provide technical assistance to local school systems in the review of  
27 safety and security audits and the implementation of improvements in school facilities;

28 (16) Analyze data on school resource officers and develop guidelines and  
29 training for local school systems as required under § 7–1508 of this subtitle;

30 (17) Certify school safety coordinators as required under § 7–1508 of this  
31 subtitle;

32 (18) Submit to the General Assembly and the Governor a summary of  
33 reports on school resource officer and local law enforcement agency coverage in public  
34 schools as required under § 7–1508 of this subtitle;

1 (19) Consult with local school systems on safety evaluations developed  
2 under § 7–1510 of this subtitle;

3 (20) Review and comment on school emergency plans developed under §  
4 7–1510 of this subtitle; [and]

5 (21) Report to the General Assembly and the Governor on life–threatening  
6 incidents as required under § 7–1510 of this subtitle;

7 **(22) COLLABORATE WITH AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION OR**  
8 **A DESIGNATED FEDERAL OR NATIONAL RESEARCH ENTITY TO STUDY THE**  
9 **EFFECTIVENESS AND PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT OF ACTIVE SHOOTER SAFETY DRILLS**  
10 **OR TRAININGS BY RESEARCHING AND ANALYZING THE DATA COLLECTED FROM**  
11 **LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7–1509(F) OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND**

12 **(23) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2024, IDENTIFY BEST PRACTICES FOR**  
13 **ACTIVE SHOOTER SAFETY DRILLS OR TRAININGS, AND PERIODICALLY UPDATE**  
14 **THOSE IDENTIFICATIONS USING THE DATA COLLECTED FROM LOCAL SCHOOL**  
15 **SYSTEMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7–1509(F) OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

16 7–1509.

17 (a) **(1) [The] SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE**  
18 Department, in consultation with the Subcabinet, may adopt regulations to incorporate in  
19 the annual schedule of drills for each local school system developmentally and  
20 age–appropriate components of:

21 **[(1)] (I)** The Active Shooter Preparedness Program developed by the  
22 Department of Homeland Security or guidelines; or

23 **[(2)] (II)** The active shooter guidelines adopted by the Maryland Active  
24 Assailant Work Group established under Executive Order 01.01.2018.08.

25 **(2) ITEMS INCORPORATED INTO THE ANNUAL SCHEDULE OF DRILLS**  
26 **IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION MAY TAKE THE FORM**  
27 **OF A TRAINING RATHER THAN A DRILL.**

28 (b) Drills **OR TRAININGS** incorporated into the annual schedule of drills under  
29 subsection (a) of this section **SHALL BE DEVELOPMENTALLY AND AGE–APPROPRIATE,**  
30 **AND** may include [developmentally and age–appropriate] procedures for students or school  
31 personnel in:

32 (1) Securing classrooms;

- 1           (2)    Barricading classrooms and school entries;
- 2           (3)    Taking refuge in the classroom; and
- 3           (4)    When appropriate, escape from the classroom or school.

4           **(C)    BEFORE THE 2025–2026 SCHOOL YEAR, AND BEFORE EACH SCHOOL**  
5 **YEAR THEREAFTER, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REVIEW THE BEST PRACTICES FOR**  
6 **ACTIVE SHOOTER SAFETY DRILLS OR TRAININGS IDENTIFIED BY THE CENTER IN**  
7 **ACCORDANCE WITH § 7–1502(G) OF THIS SUBTITLE AND UPDATE ANY DRILLS AND**  
8 **TRAININGS THAT HAVE BEEN INCORPORATED INTO THE ANNUAL SCHEDULE OF**  
9 **DRILLS UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION TO REFLECT THOSE BEST**  
10 **PRACTICES.**

11           **(D)    EXCEPT FOR A VOLUNTARY DRILL OR TRAINING OCCURRING AFTER**  
12 **SCHOOL HOURS, ACTIVE SHOOTER SAFETY DRILLS OR TRAININGS MAY NOT**  
13 **INCLUDE:**

- 14           **(1)    LOUD SOUNDS INTENDED TO IMITATE GUNFIRE OR EXPLOSIONS;**
- 15           **(2)    LIVE EXERCISES WITH INDIVIDUALS ROLE–PLAYING AS AN**  
16 **ACTIVE SHOOTER OR A VICTIM; OR**
- 17           **(3)    SIMILAR ACTIVITIES THAT MAY CAUSE THE DRILL OR TRAINING**  
18 **TO BE TRAUMATIC FOR STUDENTS OR SCHOOL PERSONNEL.**

19           **[(c)] (E)**    The Department shall notify the Governor and, in accordance with §  
20 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the Legislative Policy Committee of proposed  
21 changes to regulations that alter the annual schedule of drills as provided under this  
22 section.

23           **[(d)] (F)**    Each local school system shall **[collaborate]:**

24           **(1)    COLLABORATE** with the local law enforcement agency to establish  
25 policies for responding to an emergency at each public school in the county;

26           **(2)    PROVIDE PARENTS WITH THE ANNUAL SCHEDULE OF ACTIVE**  
27 **SHOOTER SAFETY DRILLS OR TRAININGS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR,**  
28 **WHICH INCLUDES:**

29           **(I)    THE MONTH IN WHICH THE DRILLS OR TRAININGS WILL**  
30 **OCCUR;**

31           **(II)   THE TYPE OF DRILL OR TRAINING THAT WILL OCCUR; AND**

1 (III) HOW STUDENTS WILL BE NOTIFIED OF THE DRILL OR  
2 TRAINING;

3 (3) ANNOUNCE DRILLS OR TRAININGS IN ADVANCE TO STUDENTS AND  
4 SCHOOL PERSONNEL;

5 (4) NOTIFY PARENTS AFTER A DRILL OR TRAINING HAS TAKEN  
6 PLACE;

7 (5) PROVIDE A MENTAL HEALTH FOLLOW-UP FOR STUDENTS AND  
8 SCHOOL PERSONNEL AFTER A DRILL OR TRAINING;

9 (6) (I) IDENTIFY STUDENTS OR SCHOOL PERSONNEL WHO MAY  
10 REQUIRE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT DURING AND AFTER A DRILL OR TRAINING,  
11 INCLUDING AN INDIVIDUAL:

12 1. WITH A DISABILITY; OR

13 2. WHO HAS EXPERIENCED TRAUMA; AND

14 (II) PROVIDE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AND COPING  
15 STRATEGIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO REQUIRE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT DURING AND  
16 AFTER A DRILL OR TRAINING; AND

17 (7) (I) COLLECT DATA ON THE EFFECTIVENESS AND  
18 PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT OF THE DRILLS OR TRAININGS, INCLUDING REQUESTING  
19 FEEDBACK FROM SCHOOL PERSONNEL, PARENTS, AND STUDENTS; AND

20 (II) REPORT THE DATA AND FINDINGS TO THE CENTER.

21 (G) (1) (I) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2025, THE CENTER SHALL DEVELOP  
22 MODEL CONTENT THAT INFORMS PARENTS OF THE STATE'S FIREARM STORAGE  
23 LAWS.

24 (II) EACH YEAR, THE CENTER SHALL EVALUATE THE MODEL  
25 CONTENT AND UPDATE IT AS NEEDED.

26 (2) THE CENTER SHALL CONSULT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
27 POLICE IN DEVELOPING THE MODEL CONTENT.

28 (3) AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH SCHOOL YEAR, EACH LOCAL SCHOOL  
29 SYSTEM SHALL DISTRIBUTE THE MODEL CONTENT TO THE PARENTS.

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
31 1, 2024.