

# SENATE BILL 624

P3, E4  
SB 777/22 – JPR

4lr2969

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By: **Senator Carter**

Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2024

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 22, 2024

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

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Public Information Act Requests Made to Law**  
3 **Enforcement – Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Public Information Act Requests  
5 Made to Law Enforcement; and generally relating to law enforcement and the Public  
6 Information Act.

7 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
8 That:

9 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Public Information Act Requests Made to Law  
10 Enforcement.

11 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

12 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of  
13 the Senate;

14 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of  
15 the House;

16 (3) the Attorney General, or the Attorney General's designee;

17 (4) the Secretary of State Police, or the Secretary's designee;

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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           ~~(4)~~ (5) the Public Defender, or the Public Defender's designee; and

2           ~~(5)~~ (6) the following members, appointed by the President of the Senate and  
3 the Speaker of the House:

4           (i) one representative of the Maryland Municipal League;

5           (ii) one representative of the Maryland Association of Counties;

6           (iii) one representative of the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association;

7           (iv) one representative of the Maryland Sheriffs' Association;

8           (v) one representative of the Maryland, Delaware, and District of  
9 Columbia Press Association, Inc.;

10           (vi) one representative of the Maryland State's Attorneys'  
11 Association; and

12           (vii) one representative of ~~the Baltimore Legal Action Team~~ the  
13 American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland.

14           (c) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall designate the  
15 chair of the Task Force.

16           (d) The Office of the Attorney General shall provide staff for the Task Force.

17           (e) A member of the Task Force:

18           (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

19           (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State  
20 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

21           (f) A member of the Task Force serves at the pleasure of the person who  
22 appointed the member.

23           (g) At the first meeting of the Task Force, the Task Force shall vote to adopt a  
24 code of conduct providing for the acceptable conduct of Task Force members.

25           (h) The Task Force shall review and study:

26           (1) costs charged by law enforcement agencies in relation to disclosure of  
27 records requested under the Maryland Public Information Act;

28           (2) procedures applied by law enforcement agencies in the disclosure of  
29 records requested under the Maryland Public Information Act; and

1 (3) the status and operations of the Maryland Public Information Act  
2 Compliance Board.

3 ~~(e)~~ (i) (1) On or before December 31, 2024, the Task Force shall submit an interim  
4 report on its findings, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, to the  
5 General Assembly.

6 (2) On or before December 31, 2025, the Task Force shall submit a final  
7 report on its findings, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, to the  
8 General Assembly.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
10 1, 2024. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2026,  
11 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and  
12 of no further force and effect.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.