

# HOUSE BILL 782

F1

(5lr2969)

## ENROLLED BILL

— *Ways and Means/Education, Energy, and the Environment* —

Introduced by ~~Delegate Atterbeary~~ Delegates Atterbeary, Ebersole, Fair, Griffith, Hornberger, R. Long, Miller, Mireku-North, Patterson, Roberts, Vogel, Wells, Wilkins, Wims, Wu, and Young

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock, \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker.

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

1 AN ACT concerning

#### 2 **Study on Detecting Deadly Weapons in Public Middle and High Schools**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the ~~State Department of Education~~ Maryland Center for  
4 School Safety to study how best to detect deadly weapons in public middle and high  
5 schools and how best to rapidly report the detection of weapons to a law enforcement  
6 agency; requiring the Maryland Center for School Safety to request any available  
7 assessment of the technologies evaluated under this Act; and generally relating to a  
8 study on detecting deadly weapons in public middle and high schools.

9 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
10 That:

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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.

*Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.*



1 (a) ~~The State Department of Education~~ Maryland Center for School Safety shall  
2 study how best to:

3 (1) detect deadly weapons on public middle and high school properties; and

4 (2) have schools rapidly report the detection of a deadly weapon to a law  
5 enforcement agency.

6 (b) (1) The study required under this section shall include a comprehensive  
7 ~~audit evaluation~~ of the current security infrastructure used in each public school system in  
8 the State.

9 (2) The ~~audit evaluation~~ shall include ~~an evaluation of~~ meetings with  
10 members of each local school system to assess:

11 (i) physical and technological security measures currently in use;  
12 and

13 (ii) any gaps or areas that require improvement within the current  
14 security system.

15 (3) The Center shall build on information collected as part of regular safety  
16 evaluations and other reports collected under § 7-1510 of the Education Article in  
17 conducting its evaluation.

18 (4) Information collected as part of an evaluation is not a public record and  
19 shall be protected in the same manner as records covered by § 4-314.1 of the General  
20 Provisions Article.

21 (c) The study shall, at minimum, include an evaluation of:

22 (1) ~~any~~ widely accepted available methods not currently used by the public  
23 school systems in the State and the feasibility of using those methods to help fill gaps or  
24 make improvements in the security system identified in the comprehensive ~~audit~~  
25 evaluation;

26 (2) how the current security system could best be adapted to achieve better  
27 detection of deadly weapons and quicker reporting to law enforcement agencies when  
28 deadly weapons have been detected;

29 (3) ~~software that uses artificial intelligence to identify deadly weapons, and~~  
30 ~~the necessary steps to ensure that the software works effectively, including integration~~  
31 used for school safety and how it can best be integrated effectively with security cameras  
32 and other currently used safety measures;

33 (4) an increased use of security cameras in public middle and high schools  
34 and their ideal placement; and

1 (5) an increased use of metal detectors, including handheld metal  
2 detectors, in public middle and high school entrances.

3 (d) The Center shall request any available assessment of technologies evaluated  
4 under this Act that analyzes the technology's:

5 (1) efficacy;

6 (2) bias;

7 (3) data ownership;

8 (4) privacy;

9 (5) scope of use; and

10 (6) risk management.

11 (e) (1) On or before December 1, 2025, in a manner that does not jeopardize  
12 school safety, the ~~State Department of Education~~ Maryland Center for School Safety shall  
13 issue an interim report, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, on  
14 the findings of its study to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, the Senate  
15 Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment, and the House Ways and Means  
16 Committee.

17 (2) On or before December 1, 2026, in a manner that does not jeopardize  
18 school safety, the Maryland Center for School Safety shall issue a final report, in accordance  
19 with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, on the findings of its study to the President  
20 of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and  
21 the Environment, and the House Ways and Means Committee.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
23 1, 2025. It shall remain effective for a period of ~~1 year~~ 2 years and 1 month and, at the end  
24 of June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly,  
25 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.