

HOUSE BILL 1384

F3

5lr1353

By: **Howard County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2025

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Howard County – Study on Detecting Deadly Weapons in Public Middle and**
3 **High Schools**

4 **Ho. Co. 15–25**

5 FOR the purpose of requiring the Howard County Board of Education to study how best to
6 detect deadly weapons in Howard County public middle and high schools and how
7 best to rapidly report the detection of weapons to a law enforcement agency; and
8 generally relating to a study on detecting deadly weapons in Howard County public
9 middle and high schools.

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

12 (a) The Howard County Board of Education shall study how best to:

13 (1) detect deadly weapons on Howard County public middle and high
14 school properties; and

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

17 (b) (1) The study required under this section shall include a comprehensive
18 audit of the current security infrastructure used in the Howard County public school
19 system.

20 (2) The audit shall include an evaluation of:

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

22 and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

4 (1) any available methods not currently used by the Howard County Public
5 School System, and the feasibility of using those methods, to help fill gaps or make
6 improvements in the security system identified in the comprehensive audit;

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

10 (3) software that uses artificial intelligence to identify deadly weapons, and
11 the necessary steps to ensure that the software works effectively, including integration with
12 security cameras and other currently used safety measures;

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

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

17 (d) On or before October 1, 2025, in a manner that does not jeopardize school
18 safety, the Howard County Board of Education shall report on the findings of its study to
19 the State Superintendent of Schools and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State
20 Government Article, the Howard County Delegation to the General Assembly.

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