

Chapter 244

(House Bill 782)

AN ACT concerning

Study on Detecting Deadly Weapons in Public Middle and High Schools

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

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

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

- (1) detect deadly weapons on public middle and high school properties; and
- (2) have schools rapidly report the detection of a deadly weapon to a law enforcement agency.

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

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

- (i) physical and technological security measures currently in use;
and
- (ii) any gaps or areas that require improvement within the current security system.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(1) efficacy;

(2) bias;

(3) data ownership;

(4) privacy;

(5) scope of use; and

(6) risk management.

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

(2) On or before December 1, 2026, in a manner that does not jeopardize school safety, the Maryland Center for School Safety shall issue a final report, in accordance

with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, on the findings of its study to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment, and the House Ways and Means Committee.

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

Approved by the Governor, May 6, 2025.