

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

House Bill 810  
Judiciary

(Delegate Grammer, *et al.*)

---

Public Safety - Lethality Assessment Protocol

---

This bill requires each law enforcement agency to adopt a policy requiring the use of a “lethality assessment protocol” to evaluate any person believed to be a victim of or injured in relation to a domestically related crime or abuse. “Lethality assessment protocol” means a multiprong validated tool that (1) is intended to be used by a law enforcement officer during the investigation of a domestically related crime; (2) uses evidence-based questions to assess an individual’s risk of being injured or killed by the individual’s intimate partner; and (3) includes offering local resources to individuals who are likely to be injured or killed by an intimate partner.

---

Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Compliance with the bill’s requirements can be handled with the existing budgeted resources of State law enforcement agencies. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** Compliance with the bill’s requirements can be handled with the existing budgeted resources of local law enforcement agencies. Local government revenues are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

---

Analysis

**Current Law:** The Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (MPTSC) operates approved police training schools and prescribes standards for and certifies schools that offer police and security training. In consultation and cooperation with various entities,

it also sets minimum qualifications for instructors and certifies qualified instructors for approved training schools.

Chapter 651 of 2016 required MPTSC, after conducting a review of the experience and best practices of other states, to develop a lethality screening protocol and training for law enforcement officers to employ when investigating complaints of domestic violence and assault by strangulation. The commission was required to report to the General Assembly the result of the review, the protocol, and the training developed in accordance with the legislation by January 1, 2017. As a result, the [Lethality Assessment Program Report](#) was submitted in December 2016.

Section 4-501(b) of the Family Law Article defines “abuse” as:

- an act that causes serious bodily harm;
- an act that places a person eligible for relief in fear of imminent serious bodily harm;
- assault in any degree;
- rape or sexual offense under § 3-303, § 3-304, § 3-307, or § 3-308 of the Criminal Law Article or attempted rape or sexual offense in any degree;
- false imprisonment;
- stalking under § 3-802 of the Criminal Law Article; or
- revenge porn under § 3-809 of the Criminal Law Article.

If the person for whom relief is sought is a child, “abuse” may also include abuse of a child, as defined in statute. “Abuse” may also include abuse of a vulnerable adult, as defined in statute, if the person for whom relief is sought is a vulnerable adult.

Section 6-233 of the Criminal Procedure Article defines “domestically related crime” as a crime committed by a defendant against a victim who is a person eligible for relief under a domestic violence protective order or who had a sexual relationship with the defendant within 12 months before the commission of the crime.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Harford and Talbot counties; Maryland Municipal League; Alcohol, Tobacco, and Cannabis Commission; Comptroller's Office; Baltimore City Community College; University System of Maryland; Morgan State University; St. Mary's College of Maryland; Department of General Services; Department of Human Services; Maryland Department of Labor; Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Department of State Police; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 14, 2025  
caw/lgc

---

Analysis by: Shirleen M. E. Pilgrim

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510