

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2025 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Enrolled - Revised**

House Bill 1116

(Delegate Healey)

Judiciary

Judicial Proceedings

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**Public Safety - State Clearinghouse for Missing Persons**

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This bill renames the State Clearinghouse for Missing Children, which is operated by the Department of State Police (DSP), to be the State Clearinghouse for Missing Persons and transfers its statutory provisions from the Family Law Article to the Public Safety Article. The bill further establishes that the duties of the State Clearinghouse for Missing Persons include (1) the receipt, collection, and distribution of general information and annual statistics regarding missing persons and (2) coordination of law enforcement agencies and other interested persons or groups within and outside the State regarding information on persons who have disappeared from, or are thought to be located in, the State. Other conforming changes are made to reflect the expansion of the clearinghouse to include all missing persons. In addition, the bill requires DSP to study the department's capacity to report to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System information about persons who have disappeared from, or are thought to be located in, Maryland. By December 1, 2025, DSP must report its findings to the Governor and the General Assembly.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** DSP can implement the bill using existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** The bill's changes can be handled with existing local resources. Local revenues are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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## **Analysis**

**Current Law:** The State Clearinghouse for Missing Children is responsible for (1) the receipt, collection, and distribution of general information and annual statistics regarding missing children and (2) coordination of law enforcement agencies and other interested persons or groups within and outside the State regarding information on children who have disappeared from, or are thought to be located in, the State.

For children who have disappeared from or are thought to be located in the State, the State Clearinghouse for Missing Children (1) must publish the names of and relevant available information on missing children and annual statistics regarding missing children and (2) may establish and maintain a list of organizations and groups that provide volunteer search teams or resources relating to missing children. The Secretary of State Police may develop, in cooperation with local law enforcement agencies, a plan for voluntary fingerprinting programs for children.

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## **Additional Information**

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

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Prince George's County; City of Annapolis; Maryland Municipal League; Department of Natural Resources; Department of State Police; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 14, 2025  
caw/lgc  
Third Reader - March 7, 2025  
Enrolled - April 21, 2025  
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