

# HOUSE BILL 198

F1, E2

6lr1267

(PRE-FILED)

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By: **Delegate Griffith**

Requested: October 21, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Ways and Means and Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **School Systems – Reportable Offenses – Notification of Student as Suspect**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring law enforcement agencies to notify the State's Attorney if a  
4 student is a suspect in an investigation of certain offenses and if the student no  
5 longer is a suspect; authorizing the State's Attorney to notify the local  
6 superintendent or the superintendent's designee if the student is a suspect in an  
7 investigation of certain offenses; requiring the State's Attorney to notify the local  
8 superintendent or the superintendent's designee if a student is no longer a suspect  
9 in certain investigations; and generally relating to reportable offenses in school  
10 systems.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

12 Article – Education

13 Section 7-303

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

17 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article – Education**

19 7-303.

20 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

21 (2) “Criminal organization” has the meaning stated in § 9-801 of the  
22 Criminal Law Article.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.





7. A violation of § 9–802 or § 9–803 of the Criminal Law Article;
8. A violation of § 3–203 of the Criminal Law Article;
9. A violation of § 6–301 of the Criminal Law Article;
10. A violation of § 9–302, § 9–303, or § 9–305 of the Criminal Law Article;
11. A violation of § 7–105 of the Criminal Law Article;
12. A violation of § 6–202 of the Criminal Law Article; or
13. A violation of § 10–606 of the Criminal Law Article.

(7) "School principal" means the principal of the public or nonpublic school in which a student is enrolled, or a designee of the principal, who is an administrator.

16 (ii) "School security officer" does not include a teacher.

(9) "Student" means an individual enrolled in a public school system or nonpublic school in the State who is 5 years of age or older and under 22 years of age.

19 (b) (1) IF A STUDENT IS THE SUSPECT IN AN INVESTIGATION OF AN ACT  
20 THAT IF COMMITTED BY AN ADULT WOULD BE A FELONY OR CRIME OF VIOLENCE,  
21 THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY CONDUCTING THE INVESTIGATION SHALL NOTIFY  
22 THE STATE'S ATTORNEY OF THE INVESTIGATION WITHIN 24 HOURS OF THE  
23 IDENTIFICATION OF THE STUDENT AS A SUSPECT OR AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE.

8           **(C)** If a student is arrested for a reportable offense or an offense that is related to  
9 the student's membership in a criminal organization, the law enforcement agency making  
10 the arrest:

11 (1) Shall notify the following individuals of the arrest and the charges  
12 within 24 hours of the arrest or as soon as practicable:

13 (i) The local superintendent;

14 (ii) The school principal; and

15 (iii) For a school that has a school security officer, the school security  
16 officer; and

17 (2) May notify the State's Attorney of the arrest and charges.

18       **(c) (D)**     The State's Attorney shall promptly notify either the local  
19 superintendent or the school principal of the disposition of the reportable offense required  
20 to be reported under subsection **(b) (C)** of this section.

21 [d] (E) Except by order of a juvenile court or other court upon good cause  
22 shown, the information obtained by an individual pursuant to subsections (b) [and], (c),  
23 **AND (D)** of this section:

24 (1) Is confidential and may not be rediscovered by subpoena or otherwise  
25 except as provided pursuant to subsections [(e) and] (f) AND (G) of this section; and

(2) May not be made part of the student's permanent educational record.

27       **[(e)] (F)**      (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection **[(d)] (E)** of this  
28 section, nothing shall prohibit a local superintendent or school principal from transmitting  
29 the information obtained pursuant to subsections **(b) [and], (c), AND (D)** of this section as  
30 a confidential file to the local superintendent of another public school system in the State  
31 or another nonpublic school in the State in which the student has enrolled or been  
32 transferred in order to carry out the purposes of this section if the disposition of the  
33 reportable offense was a conviction or an adjudication of delinquency or the criminal charge  
34 or delinquency petition is still pending.

(2) A local superintendent or school principal who transmits information about a student under this subsection shall include in the transmittal information regarding any educational programming and related services provided to the student.

4        **[f] (G)**      The State Board shall adopt regulations to ensure that information  
5 obtained by a local superintendent, a school principal, or a school security officer under  
6 subsections (b), (c), **(D)**, and **[e] (F)** of this section is:

10 (2) Transmitted only to school personnel of the school in which the student  
11 is enrolled as necessary to carry out the purposes set forth in item (1) of this subsection;  
12 and

15        [g] (H) (1) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection,  
16 the local superintendent and the school principal shall consider prohibiting a student who  
17 is arrested for a reportable offense involving rape or a sexual offense from attending the  
18 same school or riding on the same school bus as the alleged victim of the reportable offense  
19 if such action is necessary or appropriate to protect the physical or psychological well-being  
20 of the alleged victim.

24       **(h) (I)** Nothing in this section is intended to limit the manner in which a local  
25 school obtains information or uses information obtained by any lawful means other than  
26 that set forth in subsections (b), (c), **(D)**, and **[e] (F)** of this section.

27           **[(i)] (J)**     Each public school that enrolls students in grades six through twelve in  
28     the State shall designate at least one school security officer.

29        [j)] (k)      (1)     On or before December 30 each year, the Department, in  
30 accordance with State and federal privacy laws, shall submit to the Governor and, in  
31 accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly a report  
32 that includes the following information about each reportable offense for which a local  
33 school received information under [subsection] **SUBSECTIONS (b) AND (C)** of this section  
34 in the preceding school year:

35 (i) The nature of the reportable offense;

(ii) Verification that the offense occurred off school premises;

(iii) Action taken by the local school and county board after being portable offense **OR THE IDENTIFICATION OF A STUDENT AS A**

(iv) The race, ethnicity, gender, and disability status of the student  
reportable offense **OR IDENTIFIED AS A SUSPECT**;

(v) The grade of the student arrested for the reportable offense OR SUSPECT;

(vi) The regular school program of the student arrested for the  
**OR IDENTIFIED AS A SUSPECT;**

(vii) Whether the student's regular school program was altered as a result of the offense **OR IDENTIFICATION OF THE STUDENT AS A SUSPECT;**

(viii) If the student was removed from the student's regular school  
t of the reportable offense **OR THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE STUDENT**

1. The amount of time during which the student was

2. The student's placement and educational programming  
oval; and

(ix) If removed from the student's regular school program, the performance during the time period the student was removed, including, and standardized test scores, and any additional disciplinary actions.

23 (2) Each county board and public school shall provide the Department with  
24 any information necessary to issue its report in accordance with this section.

25        **[(k)] (L)**     If a student is removed or excluded from the student's regular school  
26 program for a reportable offense **OR IDENTIFICATION AS A SUSPECT**, the principal or  
27 county superintendent shall invite the student's attorney, if the student has an attorney,  
28 to participate in the conference between the student or the student's parent or guardian  
29 and the principal or county superintendent, and the manifestation determination review,  
30 if applicable.

31 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
32 1, 2026.