

HOUSE BILL 326

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6lr1795

By: **Delegate Ebersole**

Introduced and read first time: January 16, 2026

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Maryland Center for School Safety – Anonymous Reporting System**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Center for School Safety to develop and
4 administer an anonymous reporting system; requiring the Center to develop
5 operational guidelines and procedures for the anonymous reporting system and to
6 provide certain training; requiring each local school system to participate in the
7 anonymous reporting system, subject to a certain exception; requiring a certain
8 custodian of records to deny inspection of information and materials related to the
9 anonymous reporting system; and generally relating to the school safety anonymous
10 reporting system.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

12 Article – Education

13 Section 7-1502(g)

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

16 BY adding to

17 Article – Education

18 Section 7-1514

19 Annotated Code of Maryland

20 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

21 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

22 Article – General Provisions

23 Section 4-314.1(a)

24 Annotated Code of Maryland

25 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

27 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



Article – Education

2 7-1502.

3 (g) The Center shall perform the following functions and duties:

(2) Develop a website containing a searchable database of definitive research, books, videos, white papers, speakers, websites, and other school safety resources;

11 (4) Research and recommend the use of common assessment tools to be
12 used to identify specific problems and needs of schools and neighborhoods to facilitate
13 intervention before assessed findings become problematic;

17 (i) Surveillance and other security technology; and

(ii) Innovations to maximize the use of human resources to monitor activity and influence positive relationship building;

20 (6) Maintain and maximize relationships with emergency responders, law
21 enforcement personnel, parents, and other emergency preparedness stakeholders to ensure
22 seamless execution in an emergency event, including:

23 (i) Consolidate resources among stakeholders to maximize support
24 and secure necessary skills to ensure emergency plan implementation;

25 (ii) Conduct collaborative training and preparation exercises; and

26 (iii) Identify improvements and ensure nonduplication of effort in
27 emergency response procedures;

(7) Provide safety information on traveling to and from school to parents and students twice a year that includes data related to bus and pedestrian safety, strategies for ensuring personal safety, efforts of the local school system or school to improve safety, and information on the available options for reporting incidents or concerns:

(11) Assist local school systems to monitor local school system and individual school behavior data to ensure fairness in the application of consequences for student misbehavior;

12 (12) Assist the Department and local school systems:

13 (i) To prepare an annual report that combines multiple school safety
14 data systems into one format for public review; and

15 (ii) To incorporate new data points into existing data collection
16 systems;

17 (13) Assist in the development of safety and security criteria for the design
18 and operation of school facilities;

19 (14) Assist local school systems to identify resources and implement training
20 for students and parents about relationship violence, identifying the signs of unhealthy
21 relationships, and preventing relationship violence;

22 (15) Provide technical assistance to local school systems in the review of
23 safety and security audits and the implementation of improvements in school facilities;

(16) Analyze data on school resource officers and develop guidelines and training for local school systems as required under § 7-1508 of this subtitle;

26 (17) Certify school safety coordinators as required under § 7-1508 of this
27 subtitle;

(19) Consult with local school systems on safety evaluations developed under § 7-1510 of this subtitle;

(20) Review and comment on school emergency plans developed under § 7-1510 of this subtitle;

(21) Report to the General Assembly and the Governor on life-threatening incidents as required under § 7-1510 of this subtitle;

(23) On or before October 1, 2024, identify best practices for active shooter safety drills or trainings, and periodically update those identifications using the data collected from local school systems in accordance with § 7-1509(f) of this subtitle; [and]

(24) Administer the Secure Schools Emergency Response Grant Program under § 7-1513 of this subtitle; AND

16 7-1514.

17 (A) (1) THE CENTER SHALL DEVELOP AND ADMINISTER AN ANONYMOUS
18 REPORTING SYSTEM.

(2) THE ANONYMOUS REPORTING SYSTEM SHALL:

20 (I) COORDINATE THE RECEIPT OF INFORMATION RELATING TO
21 A SCHOOL OR STUDENT SAFETY CONCERN IN A MANNER THAT MAINTAINS THE
22 ANONYMITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL REPORTING THE INFORMATION; AND

26 (3) THE CENTER SHALL:

9 (II) A LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM THAT CHOOSES NOT TO
10 PARTICIPATE IN THE ANONYMOUS REPORTING SYSTEM SHALL PROVIDE WRITTEN
11 NOTICE TO THE CENTER ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2026.

Article – General Provisions

13 4-314.1.

14 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, a custodian shall deny
15 inspection of any record disclosing:

(1) a safety evaluation or school emergency plan developed under § 7-1510 of the Education Article;

(2) an emergency response policy developed under § 7-1509 of the Education Article and § 3-520 of the Public Safety Article;

20 (3) guidelines for school resource officers and supplemental coverage by
21 local law enforcement agencies developed by the Maryland Center for School Safety under
22 § 7-1508 of the Education Article;

(4) a plan to implement the Maryland Center for School Safety's guidelines adopted by a local school system under § 7-1508 of the Education Article; [or]

25 (5) any school mapping data produced under the School Mapping Data
26 Program in accordance with § 7-1510.1 of the Education Article; OR

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
30 1, 2026.