

# HOUSE BILL 904

E4

6lr2153  
CF SB 516

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By: **Delegates Moon, Cardin, and Phillips**  
Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2026  
Assigned to: Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Law Enforcement – Protective Body Armor – Requirements and Reporting**

3 FOR the purpose of providing that a law enforcement agency may not assign a law  
4 enforcement officer to duties other than administrative duties unless the officer is  
5 issued protective body armor; requiring a law enforcement agency to issue only  
6 protective body armor that meets certain standards; requiring a law enforcement  
7 agency to replace protective body armor before a certain date; requiring a law enforcement  
8 agency to notify the Maryland Police Training and Standards  
9 Commission under certain circumstances; requiring the Commission to notify the  
10 Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy under certain circumstances;  
11 providing that the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy may not  
12 disburse certain grant funds under certain circumstances; and generally relating to  
13 protective body armor.

14 BY adding to  
15 Article – Public Safety  
16 Section 3–535  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
20 Article – Public Safety  
21 Section 4–101(a) and (e)  
22 Annotated Code of Maryland  
23 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

24 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
25 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

26 **Article – Public Safety**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 3-535.

2 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
3 INDICATED.

4 (2) "COMMISSION" MEANS THE MARYLAND POLICE TRAINING AND  
5 STANDARDS COMMISSION.

6 (3) "LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN §  
7 3-201 OF THIS TITLE.

8 (4) "PROTECTIVE BODY ARMOR" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN §  
9 4-101 OF THIS ARTICLE.

10 (B) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A LAW  
11 ENFORCEMENT AGENCY MAY NOT ASSIGN A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER TO DUTIES  
12 OTHER THAN ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES UNLESS THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER  
13 IS ISSUED PROTECTIVE BODY ARMOR.

14 (2) A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY MAY ISSUE ONLY PROTECTIVE  
15 BODY ARMOR TO A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER THAT:

16 (I) CONFORMS TO ALL CURRENT NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF  
17 JUSTICE BALLISTIC RESISTANCE OF BODY ARMOR STANDARDS; AND

18 (II) HAS NOT REACHED THE EXPIRATION OR SUGGESTED  
19 REPLACEMENT DATE INDICATED BY THE MANUFACTURER OF THE PROTECTIVE  
20 BODY ARMOR.

21 (3) A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY SHALL REPLACE PROTECTIVE  
22 BODY ARMOR BEFORE THE EXPIRATION OR SUGGESTED REPLACEMENT DATE  
23 INDICATED BY THE MANUFACTURER.

24 (C) (1) IF A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY HAS NOT REPLACED A LAW  
25 ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S PROTECTIVE BODY ARMOR BY THE 31ST DAY AFTER THE  
26 EXPIRATION OR SUGGESTED REPLACEMENT DATE INDICATED BY THE  
27 MANUFACTURER, THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY SHALL PROMPTLY NOTIFY THE  
28 COMMISSION.

29 (2) AFTER RECEIVING NOTIFICATION UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF  
30 THIS SUBSECTION, THE COMMISSION SHALL NOTIFY THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF  
31 CRIME PREVENTION AND POLICY THAT THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY HAS

1 FAILED TO REPLACE PROTECTIVE BODY ARMOR IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION  
2 (B) OF THIS SECTION.

3 (3) AFTER RECEIVING NOTIFICATION UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF  
4 THIS SUBSECTION, THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION AND POLICY  
5 SHALL WITHHOLD GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY  
6 UNTIL THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY PROVIDES PROOF THAT THE LAW  
7 ENFORCEMENT AGENCY HAS ISSUED REPLACEMENT PROTECTIVE BODY ARMOR  
8 THAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.

9 (4) THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION AND POLICY  
10 MAY NOT DISBURSE GRANT FUNDS TO A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY IF IN THE  
11 IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING FISCAL YEAR THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY:

12 (I) FAILED TO NOTIFY THE COMMISSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
13 PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION; OR

14 (II) NOTIFIED THE COMMISSION ON THREE OR MORE  
15 OCCASIONS UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

16 4–101.

17 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

18 (e) “Protective body armor” means a vest or similar article that is:

19 (1) designed to be worn on the body to protect against blunt force trauma  
20 associated with the impact of a firearm projectile; and

21 (2) manufactured of bullet resistant fabric that conforms to National  
22 Institute of Justice (NIJ) Standard 0101.03 (or the current edition) and V–50 ballistic  
23 testing requirements.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
25 October 1, 2026.