

HOUSE BILL 1012

J1

6lr2243

By: **Delegate Fair**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Health

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Health – Local Suicide Fatality Review Teams – Authorization**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing a county or municipality to establish a local suicide fatality
4 review team; requiring a local team to coordinate with the State Suicide Fatality
5 Review Committee; exempting certain meetings of a local team from the Open
6 Meetings Act; providing that certain information acquired by a local team is
7 confidential and exempt from disclosure under the Maryland Public Information Act;
8 prohibiting certain persons from testifying in any proceeding about details of a local
9 team meeting; and generally relating to local suicide fatality review teams.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – Health – General

12 Section 5–1101 through 5–1105 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 11. Local
13 Suicide Fatality Review Teams”

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2023 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 – Health – General**

19 **SUBTITLE 11. LOCAL SUICIDE FATALITY REVIEW TEAMS.**

20 **5–1101.**

21 **IN THIS SUBTITLE, “LOCAL TEAM” MEANS A MULTIDISCIPLINARY AND**
22 **MULTIAGENCY SUICIDE FATALITY REVIEW TEAM ESTABLISHED UNDER § 5–1102 OF**
23 **THIS SUBTITLE.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **5-1102.**

2 (A) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A COUNTY OR
3 MUNICIPALITY MAY ESTABLISH A MULTIDISCIPLINARY AND MULTIAGENCY SUICIDE
4 FATALITY REVIEW TEAM.

5 (B) TWO OR MORE COUNTIES MAY ESTABLISH A SINGLE MULTICOUNTY
6 LOCAL TEAM.

7 (C) A MULTICOUNTY LOCAL TEAM SHALL EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF
8 UNDERSTANDING ON MEMBERSHIP, STAFFING, AND OPERATION.

9 (D) THE LOCAL TEAM MEMBERSHIP SHALL BE DRAWN, IF AVAILABLE, FROM
10 THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS, AGENCIES, AND AREAS OF
11 EXPERTISE:

12 (1) THE COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER, OR THE OFFICER'S DESIGNEE;

13 (2) THE DIRECTOR OF THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL
14 SERVICES, OR THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;

15 (3) THE DIRECTOR OF THE LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY OR THE
16 DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;

17 (4) THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS FOR THE COUNTY, OR THE
18 SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEE;

19 (5) A STATE, COUNTY, OR MUNICIPAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER;

20 (6) THE DIRECTOR OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES IN THE
21 COUNTY, OR THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;

22 (7) AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROVIDER IN THE COUNTY;

23 (8) A REPRESENTATIVE OF A HOSPITAL;

24 (9) A HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL WHO SPECIALIZES IN THE
25 PREVENTION, DIAGNOSIS, AND TREATMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH OR BEHAVIORAL
26 HEALTH CONDITIONS;

27 (10) A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC WITH INTEREST OR EXPERTISE IN
28 SUICIDE PREVENTION, APPOINTED BY THE COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER; AND

1 **(11) ANY OTHER INDIVIDUAL NECESSARY FOR THE WORK OF THE**
2 **LOCAL TEAM, RECOMMENDED BY THE LOCAL TEAM AND APPOINTED BY THE COUNTY**
3 **HEALTH OFFICER.**

4 **(E) EACH LOCAL TEAM SHALL ELECT A CHAIR FROM AMONG ITS MEMBERS.**

5 **(F) EACH LOCAL TEAM SHALL:**

6 **(1) COORDINATE WITH THE STATE SUICIDE FATALITY REVIEW**
7 **COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBTITLE 10 OF THIS TITLE; AND**

8 **(2) OPERATE SUBJECT TO GUIDANCE ISSUED BY THE STATE SUICIDE**
9 **FATALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE.**

10 **5-1103.**

11 **(A) THE PURPOSE OF A LOCAL TEAM IS TO PREVENT SUICIDE DEATHS BY:**

12 **(1) REVIEWING SUICIDE DEATHS THAT OCCUR WITHIN THE COUNTY;**

13 **(2) IDENTIFYING SYSTEMIC, SERVICE, AND POLICY FACTORS**
14 **ASSOCIATED WITH RISK OF SUICIDE;**

15 **(3) PROMOTING COORDINATION BETWEEN ENTITIES INVOLVED IN**
16 **SUICIDE PREVENTION, CRISIS RESPONSE, TREATMENT, AND POSTVENTION; AND**

17 **(4) DEVELOPING RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT SUICIDE.**

18 **(B) A LOCAL TEAM MAY:**

19 **(1) EXAMINE TRENDS IN SUICIDE AND FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE**
20 **TO SUICIDE RISK;**

21 **(2) IDENTIFY GAPS IN SYSTEMS OF CARE OR COORDINATION**
22 **BETWEEN ENTITIES INVOLVED IN SUICIDE PREVENTION, CRISIS RESPONSE,**
23 **TREATMENT, AND POSTVENTION; AND**

24 **(3) SUBMIT RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE STATE SUICIDE FATALITY**
25 **REVIEW COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBTITLE 10 OF THIS TITLE, OR OTHER**
26 **LOCAL ENTITIES AS DETERMINED APPROPRIATE BY THE LOCAL TEAM.**

27 **5-1104.**

1 **(A) MEETINGS OF LOCAL TEAMS SHALL BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC AND ARE**
2 **NOT SUBJECT TO THE MARYLAND OPEN MEETINGS ACT WHEN THE LOCAL TEAMS**
3 **ARE DISCUSSING INDIVIDUAL CASES OF SUICIDE.**

4 **(B) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, MEETINGS**
5 **OF LOCAL TEAMS SHALL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND ARE SUBJECT TO THE**
6 **MARYLAND OPEN MEETINGS ACT WHEN THE LOCAL TEAM IS NOT DISCUSSING**
7 **INDIVIDUAL CASES OF SUICIDE.**

8 **(C) (1) DURING A PUBLIC MEETING, INFORMATION MAY NOT BE**
9 **DISCLOSED THAT IDENTIFIES:**

10 **(I) A DECEASED INDIVIDUAL;**

11 **(II) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS EXPERIENCED SUICIDE OR A**
12 **SUICIDE ATTEMPT;**

13 **(III) A FAMILY MEMBER, GUARDIAN, OR CARETAKER OF AN**
14 **INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBED IN ITEM (I) OR (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH; OR**

15 **(IV) AN INDIVIDUAL CONVICTED OF A CRIME OR ADJUDICATED**
16 **AS HAVING COMMITTED A DELINQUENT ACT THAT CAUSED A DEATH OR NEAR**
17 **FATALITY.**

18 **(2) DURING A PUBLIC MEETING, INFORMATION MAY NOT BE**
19 **DISCLOSED ABOUT THE INVOLVEMENT OF AN AGENCY WITH:**

20 **(I) A DECEASED INDIVIDUAL;**

21 **(II) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS EXPERIENCED SUICIDE OR A**
22 **SUICIDE ATTEMPT;**

23 **(III) A FAMILY MEMBER, GUARDIAN, OR CARETAKER OF A**
24 **DECEASED INDIVIDUAL OR OF AN INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBED IN ITEM (I) OR (II) OF THIS**
25 **PARAGRAPH; OR**

26 **(IV) AN INDIVIDUAL CONVICTED OF A CRIME OR ADJUDICATED**
27 **AS HAVING COMMITTED A DELINQUENT ACT THAT CAUSED A DEATH OR NEAR**
28 **FATALITY.**

29 **(D) THIS SECTION DOES NOT PROHIBIT A LOCAL TEAM FROM REQUESTING**
30 **THE ATTENDANCE OF A PERSON WHO HAS INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE LOCAL**
31 **TEAM'S EXERCISE OF ITS PURPOSE AND DUTIES AT A TEAM MEETING.**

1 **(E) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR**
2 **AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$500 OR**
3 **IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 90 DAYS OR BOTH.**

4 **5-1105.**

5 **(A) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION, ALL INFORMATION**
6 **AND RECORDS ACQUIRED BY A LOCAL TEAM IN THE EXERCISE OF ITS PURPOSE AND**
7 **DUTIES UNDER THIS SUBTITLE:**

8 **(1) ARE CONFIDENTIAL;**

9 **(2) ARE EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE UNDER THE MARYLAND PUBLIC**
10 **INFORMATION ACT; AND**

11 **(3) MAY BE DISCLOSED ONLY AS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE**
12 **LOCAL TEAM'S PURPOSE AND DUTIES.**

13 **(B) (1) MENTAL HEALTH RECORDS ARE SUBJECT TO THE ADDITIONAL**
14 **LIMITATIONS UNDER § 4-307 OF THIS ARTICLE FOR DISCLOSURE OF A MEDICAL**
15 **RECORD DEVELOPED PRIMARILY IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROVISION OF MENTAL**
16 **HEALTH SERVICES.**

17 **(2) SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT RECORDS ARE SUBJECT TO ANY**
18 **ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS FOR DISCLOSURE OR REDISCLOSURE OF A MEDICAL**
19 **RECORD DEVELOPED IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROVISION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE**
20 **TREATMENT SERVICES UNDER STATE LAW, 42 U.S.C. § 290DD-2, OR 42 C.F.R. PART**
21 **2.**

22 **(C) STATISTICAL COMPILATIONS OF DATA THAT DO NOT CONTAIN ANY**
23 **PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION ARE PUBLIC RECORDS.**

24 **(D) REPORTS OF A LOCAL TEAM THAT DO NOT CONTAIN ANY PERSONALLY**
25 **IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION ARE PUBLIC RECORDS.**

26 **(E) EXCEPT AS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT A LOCAL TEAM'S PURPOSE AND**
27 **DUTIES, MEMBERS OF A LOCAL TEAM AND PERSONS ATTENDING A LOCAL TEAM**
28 **MEETING MAY NOT DISCLOSE:**

29 **(1) ANY PROCEEDING AT A NONPUBLIC MEETING UNDER § 5-1104 OF**
30 **THIS SUBTITLE; OR**

1 **(2) ANY INFORMATION THAT MAY NOT BE DISCLOSED UNDER THIS**
2 **SECTION.**

3 **(F) (1) MEMBERS OF A LOCAL TEAM, PERSONS ATTENDING A LOCAL**
4 **TEAM MEETING, AND PERSONS WHO PRESENT INFORMATION TO A LOCAL TEAM MAY**
5 **NOT BE QUESTIONED IN ANY CIVIL OR CRIMINAL PROCEEDING ABOUT INFORMATION**
6 **PRESENTED IN OR OPINIONS FORMED AS A RESULT OF A MEETING.**

7 **(2) THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT PROHIBIT A PERSON FROM**
8 **TESTIFYING TO INFORMATION THAT IS OBTAINED INDEPENDENTLY OF A LOCAL**
9 **TEAM OR THAT IS PUBLIC INFORMATION.**

10 **(G) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION,**
11 **INFORMATION, DOCUMENTS, OR RECORDS OF A LOCAL TEAM ARE NOT SUBJECT TO**
12 **SUBPOENA, DISCOVERY, OR INTRODUCTION INTO EVIDENCE IN ANY CIVIL OR**
13 **CRIMINAL PROCEEDING.**

14 **(2) INFORMATION, DOCUMENTS, OR RECORDS OTHERWISE**
15 **AVAILABLE FROM OTHER SOURCES ARE NOT IMMUNE FROM SUBPOENA, DISCOVERY,**
16 **OR INTRODUCTION INTO EVIDENCE THROUGH THOSE SOURCES SOLELY BECAUSE**
17 **THEY WERE PRESENTED DURING PROCEEDINGS OF A LOCAL TEAM OR ARE**
18 **MAINTAINED BY A LOCAL TEAM.**

19 **(H) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR**
20 **AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$500 OR**
21 **IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 90 DAYS OR BOTH.**

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