

# HOUSE BILL 1359

E4

6lr3537

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By: **Delegates Ruth and Phillips**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2026

Assigned to: Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Police Pursuits of Fleeing Suspects – Standards**  
3 **(Dimeka Thornton Act)**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring each law enforcement agency in the State to submit the  
5 agency's current policy regarding pursuit of fleeing suspects to the Maryland Police  
6 Training and Standards Commission annually on or before a certain date; requiring  
7 the Commission, in consultation with the Attorney General and certain law  
8 enforcement agencies, to submit a certain report to the Governor and General  
9 Assembly annually on or before a certain date; requiring the Commission to develop  
10 a certain model policy on or before a certain date; requiring each law enforcement  
11 agency in the State to adopt a certain policy for police pursuits of fleeing suspects on  
12 or before a certain date; and generally relating to police pursuits of fleeing suspects.

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

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

20 **Article – Public Safety**

21 **3–535.**

22 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “COMMISSION” MEANS THE MARYLAND POLICE**  
23 **TRAINING AND STANDARDS COMMISSION.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(B) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2027, AND EACH JANUARY 1 THEREAFTER,**  
2 **EACH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY IN THE STATE SHALL SUBMIT THE AGENCY'S**  
3 **POLICY REGARDING PURSUIT OF FLEEING SUSPECTS TO THE COMMISSION.**

4           **(C) ON OR BEFORE JUNE 1, 2027, AND EACH JUNE 1 THEREAFTER, THE**  
5 **COMMISSION, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND LOCAL LAW**  
6 **ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, SHALL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN**  
7 **ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL**  
8 **ASSEMBLY ON:**

9                   **(1) THE NUMBER OF PURSUITS OF FLEEING SUSPECTS INITIATED;**

10                   **(2) THE REASON FOR INITIATING EACH PURSUIT;**

11                   **(3) THE OUTCOME OF EACH PURSUIT, INCLUDING WHETHER A**  
12 **SUSPECT WAS APPREHENDED;**

13                   **(4) THE REASONS FOR TERMINATING EACH PURSUIT;**

14                   **(5) ANY INJURIES OR FATALITIES SUSTAINED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT**  
15 **OFFICERS, SUSPECTS, OR BYSTANDERS;**

16                   **(6) ANY COMMON ISSUES RELATING TO PURSUITS OF FLEEING**  
17 **SUSPECTS, AS DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION;**

18                   **(7) ANY OTHER RELEVANT DATA OR ANALYSIS; AND**

19                   **(8) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BEST PRACTICES AND POLICY**  
20 **IMPROVEMENTS RELATING TO PURSUITS OF FLEEING SUSPECTS.**

21           **(D) (1) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2028, THE COMMISSION SHALL**  
22 **DEVELOP A MODEL POLICY FOR POLICE PURSUITS OF FLEEING SUSPECTS.**

23                   **(2) THE MODEL POLICY SHALL PRIORITIZE PROTECTING THE LIVES**  
24 **AND SAFETY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND BYSTANDERS.**

25                   **(3) THE COMMISSION SHALL SUBMIT THE MODEL POLICY TO EACH**  
26 **LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY IN THE STATE AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF**  
27 **THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.**

28           **(E) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2028, EACH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY IN THE**  
29 **STATE SHALL ADOPT A POLICY FOR POLICE PURSUITS OF FLEEING SUSPECTS THAT**

1 MEETS OR EXCEEDS THE STANDARDS SET FORTH IN THE MODEL POLICY DEVELOPED  
2 BY THE COMMISSION UNDER SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION.

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