

# HOUSE BILL 1511

E4, D4  
HB 1116/25 – JUD

6lr2126

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By: **Delegate Healey**  
Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2026  
Assigned to: Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety – State Clearinghouse for Missing Persons**

3 FOR the purpose of renaming and transferring the State Clearinghouse for Missing  
4 Children to be the State Clearinghouse for Missing Persons; requiring the  
5 Department of State Police to report on the Department’s ability to report certain  
6 missing persons information to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons  
7 System on or before a certain date; and generally relating to the State Clearinghouse  
8 for Missing Persons.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments, and transferring  
10 Article – Family Law  
11 Section 9–403  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)  
14 to be  
15 Article – Public Safety  
16 Section 3–609  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
20 That Section(s) 9–403 of Article – Family Law of the Annotated Code of Maryland be  
21 repealed and reenacted, with amendments, and transferred to be Section(s) 3–609 of Article  
22 – Public Safety of the Annotated Code of Maryland, to read as follows:

23 **Article – Public Safety**

24 3–609.

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



1 (a) There is a State Clearinghouse for Missing [Children] **PERSONS** operated by  
2 the Department of State Police that is responsible for:

3 (1) the receipt, collection, and distribution of general information and  
4 annual statistics regarding missing [children] **PERSONS**; and

5 (2) coordination of law enforcement agencies and other interested  
6 [persons] **INDIVIDUALS** or groups within and outside the State regarding information on  
7 [children] **PERSONS** who have disappeared from, or are thought to be located in, Maryland.

8 (b) For [children] **PERSONS** who have disappeared from or are thought to be  
9 located in the State, the State Clearinghouse for Missing [Children] **PERSONS**:

10 (1) shall publish:

11 (i) the names of and relevant available information on missing  
12 [children] **PERSONS**; and

13 (ii) annual statistics regarding missing [children] **PERSONS**; and

14 (2) may establish and maintain a list of organizations and groups that  
15 provide volunteer search teams or resources relating to missing [children] **PERSONS**.

16 (c) The Secretary of State Police may develop, in cooperation with local law  
17 enforcement agencies, a plan for voluntary fingerprinting programs for children.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

19 (a) The Department of State Police shall study the Department's capacity to  
20 report to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System information about persons  
21 who have disappeared from, or are thought to be located in, Maryland.

22 (b) On or before December 1, 2026, the Department of State Police shall report its  
23 findings to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article,  
24 the General Assembly.

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