

# SENATE BILL 56

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(PRE-FILED)

6lr0307  
CF HB 293

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By: **Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee (By Request – Departmental – Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center)**

Requested: October 1, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Committee Amendments withdrawn, February 22, 2026

Senate action: Adopted with substitute committee amendments, February 22, 2026

Read second time: February 22, 2026

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center – External Data Sharing With**  
3 **Third-Party Data Centers for Multistate Reporting – Authorization**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Governing Board of the Maryland Longitudinal Data  
5 System Center to provide certain student and workforce data to a third-party data  
6 center under certain circumstances; requiring each third-party data center to agree  
7 to comply with certain requirements relating to the data the center receives;  
8 requiring the Center to enter into a written data sharing agreement with certain  
9 third-party data centers; repealing the Governing Board's power to authorize the  
10 sharing of data with the U.S. Census Bureau under certain circumstances; and  
11 generally relating to the authority of the Maryland Longitudinal Data System  
12 Center to share data externally.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
14 Article – Education  
15 Section 24-703(a) and 24-704(a)  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
19 Article – Education  
20 Section 24-703(f) and 24-704(g)

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 Annotated Code of Maryland  
2 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

3 BY repealing  
4 Article – Education  
5 Section 24–703.2(e)  
6 Annotated Code of Maryland  
7 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

8 BY adding to  
9 Article – Education  
10 Section 24–703.4  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Education**

16 24–703.

17 (a) There is a Maryland Longitudinal Data System Center.

18 (f) The Center shall perform the following functions and duties:

19 (1) Serve as a central repository of student data and workforce data in the  
20 Maryland Longitudinal Data System, including data sets provided by:

21 (i) The State Department of Education;

22 (ii) Local education agencies;

23 (iii) The Maryland Higher Education Commission;

24 (iv) Institutions of higher education;

25 (v) The Maryland Department of Labor;

26 (vi) The Department of Juvenile Services; and

27 (vii) The Social Services Administration within the Department of  
28 Human Services;

29 (2) Oversee and maintain the warehouse of the Maryland Longitudinal  
30 Data System data sets;

1 (3) Ensure routine and ongoing compliance with the federal Family  
2 Educational Rights and Privacy Act and other relevant privacy laws and policies, including:

3 (i) The required use of de-identified data in data research and  
4 reporting;

5 (ii) The required disposition of information that is no longer needed;

6 (iii) Providing data security, including the capacity for audit trails;

7 (iv) Providing for performance of regular audits for compliance with  
8 data privacy and security standards; and

9 (v) Implementing guidelines and policies that prevent the reporting  
10 of other potentially identifying data;

11 (4) Conduct research using timely and accurate student data and  
12 workforce data to improve the State's education system and guide decision making by State  
13 and local governments, educational agencies, institutions, teachers, and other education  
14 professionals;

15 (5) Conduct research relating to:

16 (i) The impact of State and federal education programs;

17 (ii) The performance of educator preparation programs;

18 (iii) Best practices regarding classroom instruction, education  
19 programs and curriculum, and segment alignment; and

20 (iv) The impact child welfare programs have on the educational and  
21 economic outcomes of students;

22 (6) At the direction of the Accountability and Implementation Board  
23 established in Title 5, Subtitle 4 of this article provide:

24 (i) A researcher designated by the Board access to the data in the  
25 Maryland Longitudinal Data System in accordance with the procedures for staff  
26 authorization and data access established by the Maryland Longitudinal Data System  
27 governing board;

28 (ii) Aggregate data tables; or

29 (iii) Research or evaluation;

1           (7) Analyze social determinants from the following State agencies and  
2 appropriate local agencies that impact the education performance of students and indicate  
3 the need for wraparound services of students:

4                   (i) The Maryland Department of Health;

5                   (ii) The Department of Juvenile Services; and

6                   (iii) The Department of Human Services;

7           (8) To the extent practicable, conduct longitudinal studies of the items  
8 under this section to evaluate the impact of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future on the  
9 State;

10           **(9) SHARE DATA WITH THIRD-PARTY DATA CENTERS ONLY IN**  
11 **ACCORDANCE WITH § 24-703.4 OF THIS SUBTITLE;**

12           **[(9)] (10)** Fulfill information and data requests to facilitate State and  
13 federal education reporting with existing State agencies as appropriate; and

14           **[(10)] (11)** Fulfill approved public information requests.

15 24-703.2.

16           **[(e)]** The Governing Board may authorize the Center to send student information  
17 to the United States Census Bureau.]

18 **24-703.4.**

19           **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**  
20 **INDICATED.**

21                   **(2) "FEDRAMP" MEANS THE FEDERAL RISK AND AUTHORIZATION**  
22 **MANAGEMENT PROGRAM MANAGED BY THE U.S. GENERAL SERVICES**  
23 **ADMINISTRATION.**

24                   **(3) "THIRD-PARTY DATA CENTER" MEANS A SECURE**  
25 **COMPUTATIONAL RESEARCH PLATFORM MANAGED BY A PERSON OTHER THAN A**  
26 **STATE AGENCY THAT ALLOWS STATES TO SECURELY SHARE DATA FOR PURPOSES OF**  
27 **DATA MATCHING AND MULTISTATE REPORTING.**

28           **(B) (1) SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION, THE**  
29 **GOVERNING BOARD MAY AUTHORIZE THE CENTER TO PROVIDE INDIVIDUAL-LEVEL**  
30 **STUDENT DATA AND INDIVIDUAL-LEVEL WORKFORCE DATA TO A THIRD-PARTY**

1 DATA CENTER ONLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF FACILITATING MULTISTATE RESEARCH  
2 AND REPORTING ON STUDENT OUTCOMES.

3 **(2) THE GOVERNING BOARD MAY AUTHORIZE THE SHARING OF DATA**  
4 **UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION ONLY WITH ONE THIRD-PARTY DATA**  
5 **CENTER AT A TIME.**

6 **(C) (1) BEFORE AUTHORIZING THE CENTER TO PROVIDE DATA TO A**  
7 **THIRD-PARTY DATA CENTER, THE GOVERNING BOARD SHALL ENSURE THAT THE**  
8 **THIRD-PARTY DATA CENTER:**

9 **(I) HAS DATA HANDLING AND SECURITY STANDARDS THAT ARE**  
10 **AT LEAST AS RIGOROUS AS THOSE EMPLOYED BY THE CENTER;**

11 **(II) IS A FEDRAMP-AUTHORIZED AND -CERTIFIED PLATFORM;**

12 **(III) USES PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION ONLY TO**  
13 **THE EXTENT THAT IS NECESSARY FOR MATCHING STUDENT DATA AND WORKFORCE**  
14 **DATA WITH DATA FROM OTHER STATES;**

15 **(IV) EMPLOYS PRIVACY-ENHANCING TECHNIQUES, INCLUDING**  
16 **DATA HASHING, IN PLACE OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE DATA WHENEVER**  
17 **APPROPRIATE;**

18 **(V) USES ONLY DE-IDENTIFIED DATA FOR ANALYTIC**  
19 **PURPOSES;**

20 **(VI) RELEASES ONLY AGGREGATE DATA IN REPORTS AND OTHER**  
21 **OUTPUT; AND**

22 **(VII) DOES NOT REPORT DATA IN ANY FORM THAT MAY BE USED**  
23 **TO IDENTIFY INDIVIDUALS BASED ON THE SIZE OR UNIQUENESS OF THE**  
24 **POPULATION UNDER CONSIDERATION.**

25 **(2) BEFORE PROVIDING ANY DATA TO A THIRD-PARTY DATA CENTER,**  
26 **THE CENTER SHALL ENTER INTO A WRITTEN DATA SHARING AGREEMENT WITH A**  
27 **THIRD-PARTY DATA CENTER, IN WHICH THE THIRD-PARTY DATA CENTER AGREES**  
28 **TO COMPLY WITH:**

29 **(I) THE CONDITIONS LISTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS**  
30 **SUBSECTION;**

1 (II) STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS RELATING TO DATA PRIVACY;  
2 AND

3 (III) ANY OTHER CRITERIA THE GOVERNING BOARD  
4 DETERMINES ARE APPROPRIATE.

5 (3) EACH YEAR, THE GOVERNING BOARD SHALL REVIEW ~~EACH AN~~  
6 AUTHORIZED DATA SHARING AGREEMENT TO ENSURE THAT THE USE OF STUDENT  
7 DATA AND WORKFORCE DATA BY THE THIRD-PARTY DATA CENTER REMAINS  
8 COMPLIANT WITH THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT.

9 (D) BEFORE PROVIDING ANY DATA TO A THIRD-PARTY DATA CENTER, THE  
10 GOVERNING BOARD SHALL AFFIRMATIVELY APPROVE:

11 (1) THE SHARING OF THE DATA ELEMENTS THAT CONSTITUTE EACH  
12 DATA SET;

13 (2) THE SHARING OF EACH DATA SET; AND

14 (3) EACH PROPOSED RESEARCH OR REPORTING PROJECT THAT  
15 SEEKS TO USE MARYLAND DATA.

16 (E) (1) WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER ENTERING INTO A WRITTEN DATA  
17 SHARING AGREEMENT WITH A THIRD-PARTY DATA CENTER IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
18 THIS SECTION, THE CENTER SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE  
19 ON EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE HOUSE WAYS AND  
20 MEANS COMMITTEE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT  
21 ARTICLE, THAT INCLUDES:

22 (I) THE NAME OF THE THIRD-PARTY DATA CENTER;

23 (II) A SUMMARY OF THE DATA TO BE SHARED; AND

24 (III) THE PURPOSE OF AND VALUE TO THE STATE FOR ENTERING  
25 INTO THE DATA SHARING AGREEMENT.

26 (2) WITHIN 1 YEAR OF THE DATE THE REPORT UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)  
27 OF THIS SUBSECTION WAS SUBMITTED AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER UNTIL THE  
28 DATA SHARING AGREEMENT IS NO LONGER IN EFFECT, THE CENTER SHALL SUBMIT  
29 A REPORT TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE  
30 ENVIRONMENT AND THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE, IN ACCORDANCE  
31 WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THAT DESCRIBES:

32 (I) THE STATUS OF THE DATA SHARING AGREEMENT;

1                   **(II) HOW THE DATA IS BEING USED TO FURTHER THE PURPOSES**  
2 **AND STATED VALUE OF THE DATA SHARING AGREEMENT; AND**

3                   **(III) ANY VIOLATIONS OF THE DATA SHARING AGREEMENT, IF**  
4 **ANY, AND STEPS TAKEN TO REMEDY THE VIOLATIONS.**

5 24–704.

6           (a) There is a Governing Board of the Center.

7           (g) The Governing Board shall:

8                   (1) Establish the organizational placement and location of the Center after  
9 seeking and evaluating proposals from interested entities based on criteria that shall  
10 include:

11                           (i) The ability of the entity to support the operation of a large data  
12 system;

13                           (ii) Strength of funding support; and

14                           (iii) Expertise in data security;

15                   (2) Develop an implementation plan to phase in the establishment and  
16 operation of the Maryland Longitudinal Data System and the Center;

17                   (3) Provide general oversight and direction to the Center;

18                   (4) Approve the annual budget for the Center;

19                   (5) Establish the policy and research agenda of the Center;

20                   (6) Before the incorporation of any individual data in the Maryland  
21 Longitudinal Data System:

22                           (i) Create an inventory of the individual student data:

23                                   1. Proposed to be maintained in the system; and

24                                   2. Required to be reported by State and federal education  
25 mandates;

26                           (ii) Develop and implement policies to comply with the federal  
27 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act and any other privacy measures, as required  
28 by law or the Governing Board; and

1 (iii) Develop a detailed data security and safeguarding plan that  
2 includes:

- 3 1. Authorized access and authentication for authorized  
4 access;
- 5 2. Privacy compliance standards;
- 6 3. Privacy and security audits;
- 7 4. Breach notification and procedures; and
- 8 5. Data retention and disposition policies;

9 **(7) APPROVE DATA SHARING WITH THIRD-PARTY DATA CENTERS IN**  
10 **ACCORDANCE WITH § 24-703.4 OF THIS SUBTITLE;**

11 **[(7)] (8)** Oversee routine and ongoing compliance with the federal Family  
12 Educational Rights and Privacy Act and other relevant privacy laws and policies;

13 **[(8)] (9)** Ensure that any contracts that govern databases that are  
14 outsourced to private vendors include express provisions that safeguard privacy and  
15 security and include penalties for noncompliance;

16 **[(9)] (10)** Designate a standard and compliance timeline for electronic  
17 transcripts that includes the use of SASID to ensure the uniform and efficient transfer of  
18 student data between local education agencies and institutions of higher education; and

19 **[(10)] (11)** Review research requirements and set policies for the approval  
20 of data requests from State and local agencies, the Maryland General Assembly, and the  
21 public.

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

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.