

SENATE BILL 454

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6lr2594

By: **Senators Jennings, Carozza, Gallion, Hershey, Ready, Bailey, Folden, Salling, West, McKay, and Corderman**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2026

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Schools – School Resource Officers – Firearms Required**

3 FOR the purpose of repealing a certain provision of law relating to a certain school police
4 officer's authorization to carry a firearm under certain circumstances; requiring a
5 school resource officer to carry a firearm while present on the premises of a certain
6 school; and generally relating to school resource officers.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

8 Article – Education

9 Section 4–318(d) and 7–1508

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

13 Article – Education

14 Section 7–1501(a) and (j)

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – Education**

20 4–318.

21 (d) (1) [Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection, a] A Baltimore
22 City school police officer has all the powers of a law enforcement officer in the State.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



5 (ii) A Baltimore City school police officer may not act in an official
6 capacity on any other property unless:

7 1. Engaged in fresh pursuit of a suspected offender;

13 4. Ordered to do so by the Mayor of Baltimore City.

18 (ii) The Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners shall
19 establish policies to implement the provisions of subparagraph (i) of this paragraph.]

20 7-1501.

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

22 (j) "School resource officer" means:

(1) A law enforcement officer as defined under § 1-101(c) of the Public Safety Article who has been assigned to a school in accordance with a memorandum of understanding between the chief of a law enforcement agency as defined under § 3-201(d) of the Public Safety Article and the local education agency; or

27 (2) A Baltimore City school police officer, as defined in § 4-318 of this
28 article.

29 7-1508.

30 (a) (1) Each local school system shall designate a school safety coordinator.

31 (2) A designated school safety coordinator shall:

1 (i) Be certified by the Center; and

2 (ii) Serve as a liaison between the local school system, the local law
3 enforcement agency, and the Center.

4 **(B) A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER SHALL CARRY A FIREARM WHILE**
5 **PRESENT ON THE PREMISES OF THE SCHOOL TO WHICH THE OFFICER IS ASSIGNED.**

6 **[(b)] (C) (1) (i)** On or before September 1, 2018, the Center, in
7 consultation with local school systems, shall:

8 1. Develop a specialized curriculum for use in training of
9 school resource officers and school security employees; and

10 2. Submit the curriculum to the Maryland Police Training
11 and Standards Commission for approval.

12 (ii) The specialized curriculum developed under this subsection shall
13 include training in:

14 1. De-escalation;

15 2. Disability awareness;

16 3. Maintaining a positive school climate;

17 4. Constructive interactions with students; and

18 5. Implicit bias and disability and diversity awareness with
19 specific attention to racial and ethnic disparities.

20 (iii) 1. The specialized curriculum developed under this
21 subsection may not go into effect until it is approved by the Maryland Police Training and
22 Standards Commission.

23 2. If the Maryland Police Training and Standards
24 Commission does not initially approve the specialized curriculum, the Center shall amend
25 the curriculum until it meets with the Commission's approval.

26 (2) On or before March 1, 2019, the Center shall develop and submit to the
27 Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission for approval a model training
28 program that meets the requirements of the curriculum approved under paragraph (1) of
29 this subsection.

30 (3) Each local law enforcement agency shall:

31 (i) Enroll individuals assigned to be school resource officers in the

1 model training program developed by the Center under paragraph (2) of this subsection; or

2 (ii) 1. Submit to the Maryland Police Training and Standards
3 Commission for approval a training program that is consistent with the curriculum
4 developed under paragraph (1) of this subsection; and

5 2. Enroll individuals assigned to be school resource officers
6 in the training program developed under item 1 of this item.

7 (4) Beginning September 1, 2019, to be assigned as a school resource officer
8 an individual shall:

9 (i) Complete:

10 1. The model training program developed by the Center
11 under paragraph (2) of this subsection through instruction provided by the Center in
12 collaboration with the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission; or

13 2. A local law enforcement agency's training program
14 developed under paragraph (3)(ii) of this subsection; and

15 (ii) Be certified by the Maryland Police Training and Standards
16 Commission.

17 (5) Beginning September 1, 2019, to be employed as a school security
18 employee at a public school, an individual shall complete:

19 (i) The model training program developed by the Center under
20 paragraph (2) of this subsection through instruction provided by the Center in collaboration
21 with the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission; or

22 (ii) A local law enforcement agency's training program developed
23 under paragraph (3)(ii) of this subsection.

24 [(c)] (D) The Center shall collect data regarding the school resource officers in
25 each local school system, including:

26 (1) The number of full-time and part-time school resource officers
27 assigned to each elementary school, middle school, and high school; and

28 (2) Any other local school system employees or local law enforcement
29 officers who are fulfilling the role of a school resource officer.

30 [(d)] (E) (1) On or before December 15, 2018, the Center, in collaboration
31 with local law enforcement agencies and local school systems, shall analyze the initial data
32 collected under subsection [(c)] (D) of this section and develop guidelines to assist local
33 school systems in:

3 (ii) Collaborating and communicating with local law enforcement
4 agencies.

7 (i) Develop a plan to implement the guidelines developed by the
8 Center; and

9 (ii) Submit the plan to the Center for review and comment.

10 **[(e)] (F)** (1) Before the 2018–2019 school year begins, each local school
11 system shall file a report with the Center identifying:

12 (i) The public high schools in the local school system's jurisdiction
13 that have a school resource officer assigned to the school; and

20 (i) The public schools in the local school system's jurisdiction that
21 have a school resource officer assigned to the school; and

28 **[(f)] (G)** Each local school system shall post on the school system's website
29 information on the role and authority of school resource officers assigned to public schools
30 within the school system.

31 **[(g)] (H)** (1) For fiscal year 2020 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Governor
32 shall include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$10,000,000 for the purpose of
33 providing grants to local school systems and local law enforcement agencies to assist in

1 meeting the requirements of subsection [(e)] **(F)** of this section.

2 (2) Grants provided under this subsection shall be made to each local
3 school system based on the number of schools in each school system in proportion to the
4 total number of public schools in the State in the prior year.

5 **[(h)] (I)** A local school system may use funds provided under subsection **[(g)]**
6 **(H)** of this section for school security employees.

7 **[(i)] (J)** (1) The Center shall collect data on incidents of use of force between:

8 (i) Any school resource officer and a student while a school resource
9 officer is carrying out the officer's duties; and

10 (ii) Any school security employee and a student while the school
11 security employee is carrying out the employee's duties.

12 (2) On or before December 1, 2020, and each December 1 thereafter, the
13 Center shall submit a report on the data collected under paragraph (1) of this subsection
14 for each jurisdiction, in accordance with federal and State law, to the Governor and, in
15 accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
17 1, 2026.