

SENATE BILL 516

E4

6lr2574
CF HB 904

By: ~~Senator Waldstreicher~~ Senators Waldstreicher, Smith, Charles, Folden, Henson, James, Love, McKay, Muse, Sydnor, and West

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2026

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 25, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Law Enforcement – Protective Body Armor – Requirements and Reporting**

3 FOR the purpose of providing that a law enforcement agency may not assign a law
4 enforcement officer to duties other than administrative duties unless the officer is
5 issued protective body armor; requiring a law enforcement agency to issue only
6 protective body armor that meets certain standards; requiring a law enforcement
7 agency to replace protective body armor before a certain date; requiring a law
8 enforcement agency to notify the Maryland Police Training and Standards
9 Commission under certain circumstances; requiring the Commission to notify the
10 Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy under certain circumstances;
11 providing that the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy may not
12 disburse certain grant funds under certain circumstances; and generally relating to
13 protective body armor.

14 BY adding to
15 Article – Public Safety
16 Section 3–535
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
20 Article – Public Safety
21 Section 4–101(a) and (e)
22 Annotated Code of Maryland

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.



(2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

Article – Public Safety

3–535.

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

(2) “COMMISSION” MEANS THE MARYLAND POLICE TRAINING AND
STANDARDS COMMISSION.

(3) “LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN §
3–201 OF THIS TITLE.

(4) “PROTECTIVE BODY ARMOR” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN §
4–101 OF THIS ARTICLE.

(B) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A LAW
ENFORCEMENT AGENCY MAY NOT ASSIGN A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER TO DUTIES
OTHER THAN ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES UNLESS THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
IS ISSUED PROTECTIVE BODY ARMOR.

(2) A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY MAY ISSUE ONLY PROTECTIVE
BODY ARMOR TO A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER THAT:

(I) CONFORMS TO ALL CURRENT NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
JUSTICE BALLISTIC RESISTANCE OF BODY ARMOR STANDARDS; AND

(II) HAS NOT REACHED THE EXPIRATION OR SUGGESTED
REPLACEMENT DATE INDICATED BY THE MANUFACTURER OF THE PROTECTIVE
BODY ARMOR.

(3) A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY SHALL REPLACE PROTECTIVE
BODY ARMOR BEFORE THE EXPIRATION OR SUGGESTED REPLACEMENT DATE
INDICATED BY THE MANUFACTURER.

(C) (1) IF A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY HAS NOT REPLACED A LAW
ENFORCEMENT OFFICER’S PROTECTIVE BODY ARMOR BY THE 31ST DAY AFTER THE
EXPIRATION OR SUGGESTED REPLACEMENT DATE INDICATED BY THE

1 MANUFACTURER, THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY SHALL PROMPTLY NOTIFY THE
2 COMMISSION.

3 (2) AFTER RECEIVING NOTIFICATION UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF
4 THIS SUBSECTION, THE COMMISSION SHALL NOTIFY THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
5 CRIME PREVENTION AND POLICY THAT THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY HAS
6 FAILED TO REPLACE PROTECTIVE BODY ARMOR IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION
7 (B) OF THIS SECTION.

8 (3) (I) ~~AFTER~~ EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF
9 THIS PARAGRAPH, AFTER RECEIVING NOTIFICATION UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF
10 THIS SUBSECTION, THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION AND POLICY
11 SHALL WITHHOLD GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY
12 UNTIL THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY PROVIDES PROOF THAT THE LAW
13 ENFORCEMENT AGENCY HAS PURCHASED OR ISSUED REPLACEMENT PROTECTIVE
14 BODY ARMOR THAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS
15 SECTION.

16 (II) THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION AND
17 POLICY MAY NOT WITHHOLD FROM A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY UNDER
18 SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH GRANT FUNDS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNATED
19 FOR THE PURCHASE OF PROTECTIVE BODY ARMOR.

20 (4) THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION AND POLICY
21 MAY NOT DISBURSE GRANT FUNDS TO A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY IF IN THE
22 IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING FISCAL YEAR THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY:

23 (I) FAILED TO NOTIFY THE COMMISSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH
24 PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION; OR

25 (II) NOTIFIED THE COMMISSION ON THREE OR MORE
26 OCCASIONS UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

27 4-101.

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

29 (e) "Protective body armor" means a vest or similar article that is:

30 (1) designed to be worn on the body to protect against blunt force trauma
31 associated with the impact of a firearm projectile; and

1 (2) manufactured of bullet resistant fabric that conforms to National
2 Institute of Justice (NIJ) Standard 0101.03 (or the current edition) and V-50 ballistic
3 testing requirements.

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

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.