

SENATE BILL 591

E4, O3

6lr1412
CF 6lr1430

By: **Senator Brooks**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2026

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **National Public Safety Alliance for Individuals With Disabilities – Maryland**
3 **Chapter – Establishment**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Maryland Chapter of the National Public Safety
5 Alliance for Individuals with Disabilities in the Department of State Police to
6 establish and maintain a certain secure interface for a certain purpose; requiring the
7 Department, in conjunction with the Department of Disabilities, to develop and
8 disseminate certain guidelines and training for use by local law enforcement;
9 establishing the Public Safety Alliance for Individuals with Disabilities Commission;
10 requiring the Commission to study and make recommendations regarding the
11 establishment of a secure interface, implementation of statewide protocols and
12 policies for use of the secure interface, and strategies for engagement with the public;
13 and generally relating to the Maryland Chapter of the National Public Safety
14 Alliance for Individuals with Disabilities.

15 BY adding to
16 Article – Public Safety
17 Section 2–901 through 2–904 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 9. Maryland
18 Chapter of the National Public Safety Alliance for Individuals with
19 Disabilities”
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

24 **Article – Public Safety**

25 **SUBTITLE 9. MARYLAND CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY ALLIANCE**
26 **FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



2-901.

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

(B) "CHAPTER" MEANS THE MARYLAND CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY ALLIANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.

(C) "DISABILITY" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 7-101 OF THE HUMAN SERVICES ARTICLE.

2-902.

(A) THERE IS A MARYLAND CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY ALLIANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE DEPARTMENT.

(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE CHAPTER IS TO:

(1) ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A SECURE INTERFACE FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO VOLUNTARILY SUBMIT CRITICAL PERSONAL INFORMATION, INCLUDING CONTACT DETAILS, PHYSICAL DESCRIPTIONS, PHOTOGRAPHS, DRIVER'S LICENSES, VEHICLE INFORMATION, AND ANY DISABILITY-RELATED NEEDS, ACCESSIBLE TO AND FOR USE BY LAW ENFORCEMENT DURING AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE OR INTERACTION WITH THE PUBLIC;

(2) ESTABLISH REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS FOR THE SUBMISSION OF AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE SECURE INTERFACE;

(3) ENABLE CROSS-JURISDICTIONAL ACCESS TO CHAPTER INFORMATION BY PARTICIPATING LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES REGARDLESS OF AN INDIVIDUAL'S PLACE OF RESIDENCE; AND

(4) ENSURE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ARE ABLE TO RESPOND EFFECTIVELY TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES AND REDUCE THE LIKELIHOOD OF NEGATIVE OUTCOMES.

2-903.

(A) THE DEPARTMENT, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITIES, SHALL:

1 (1) DEVELOP AND DISSEMINATE GUIDELINES AND TRAINING,
2 INCLUDING MANDATORY USE BY ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, BASED ON
3 PROTOCOLS AND POLICIES IDENTIFIED BY THE PUBLIC SAFETY ALLIANCE FOR
4 INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES COMMISSION, AS ENACTED BY CHAPTER ____
5 (6LR1412) OF THE ACTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF 2026;

6 (2) PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO LAW ENFORCEMENT
7 AGENCIES TO AID IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CHAPTER PROTOCOLS AND
8 POLICIES; AND

9 (3) MONITOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROTOCOLS, POLICIES, AND
10 GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE.

11 (B) GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION
12 MAY PENALIZE A LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY THAT FAILS TO COMPLY WITH
13 THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE BY:

14 (1) ESTABLISHING INELIGIBILITY FOR STATE FUNDING FOR LAW
15 ENFORCEMENT TRAINING PROGRAMS; AND

16 (2) PROVIDING FOR REVIEW BY THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY
17 GENERAL FOR POTENTIAL VIOLATIONS OF APPLICABLE STATE LAW.

18 (C) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 EACH YEAR, BEGINNING IN 2027, THE
19 DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT TO THE SENATE JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS
20 COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH §
21 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON:

22 (1) PROTOCOLS AND POLICIES ADOPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT; AND

23 (2) LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY COMPLIANCE WITH DEPARTMENT
24 PROTOCOLS AND POLICIES.

25 2-904.

26 (A) THE CHAPTER SHALL ESTABLISH A GRANT PROGRAM TO ASSIST LAW
27 ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES WITH THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH TRAINING AND THE
28 IMPLEMENTATION OF PROTOCOLS AND POLICIES.

29 (B) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2028 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE
30 GOVERNOR MAY INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET AN APPROPRIATION SUFFICIENT
31 TO SUPPORT THE GRANT PROGRAM AND THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) In this section, "Commission" means the Public Safety Alliance for Individuals with Disabilities Commission.

(b) There is a Public Safety Alliance for Individuals with Disabilities Commission.

(c) The Commission consists of the following members:

(1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;

(2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

(3) the Secretary of Disabilities, or the Secretary's designee;

(4) one sworn member of the Maryland State Police, appointed by the Secretary of State Police;

(5) one sworn member of the Maryland Transit Administration Police, appointed by the Chief of the Maryland Transit Administration Police;

(6) one sworn member of the Maryland Capitol Police of the Department of General Services, appointed by the Chief of the Maryland Capitol Police;

(7) one representative of Disability Rights Maryland;

(8) one representative of the ARC Maryland;

(9) one representative of an organization in the State that advocates for individuals with a physical disability, appointed by the Secretary of Disabilities; and

(10) at least one member of the public with expertise in disability rights and public safety, appointed by the Secretary of State Police.

(d) The Secretary of State Police shall designate the chair of the Commission.

(e) The State agencies represented on the Commission shall provide staff for the Commission.

(f) A member of the Commission:

(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Commission; but

(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

1 (g) The Commission shall:

2 (1) meet:

3 (i) on a monthly basis during the implementation by the Maryland
4 Chapter of the National Public Safety Alliance for Individuals with Disabilities of the
5 secure interface; and

6 (ii) once every other month thereafter to assess and address any
7 issues with the secure interface, assess engagement with the public and develop strategies
8 for greater engagement, if necessary, and assess other issues as needed;

9 (2) study and make recommendations for:

10 (i) the establishment of a secure interface for the use of law
11 enforcement agencies in the State;

12 (ii) the implementation of statewide protocols and policies regarding
13 the use of the secure interface by law enforcement agencies; and

14 (iii) a statewide training plan;

15 (3) coordinate with the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy to
16 conduct public outreach and engagement campaigns to inform communities about the
17 resources of the Maryland Chapter of the National Public Safety Alliance for Individuals
18 with Disabilities established under Section 1 of this Act; and

19 (4) on or before February 1, 2027, submit to the Secretary of State Police
20 the statewide protocols and policies and training plan developed in accordance with this
21 subsection for approval by the Secretary of State Police.

22 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
23 October 1, 2026. Section 2 of this Act shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at
24 the end of September 30, 2029, Section 2 of this Act, with no further action required by the
25 General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.