

Chapter 462

(House Bill 904)

AN ACT concerning

Law Enforcement – Protective Body Armor – Requirements and Reporting

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

BY adding to

Article – Public Safety

Section 3–535

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Public Safety

Section 4–101(a) and (e)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(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 MANUFACTURER, THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY SHALL PROMPTLY NOTIFY THE COMMISSION.

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

(3) (I) ~~AFTER~~ EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, AFTER RECEIVING NOTIFICATION UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION AND POLICY SHALL WITHHOLD GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY UNTIL THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY PROVIDES PROOF THAT THE LAW

ENFORCEMENT AGENCY HAS PURCHASED OR ISSUED REPLACEMENT PROTECTIVE BODY ARMOR THAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.

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

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

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

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

4–101.

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

(e) “Protective body armor” means a vest or similar article that is:

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

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

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

Approved by the Governor, May 12, 2026.