

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 464
Judiciary

(Delegate Grammer)

Criminal Procedure - No-Knock Search Warrants - Repeal

This bill repeals authority for the issuance and execution of no-knock search warrants and makes corresponding changes. Under the bill, a search warrant may not authorize a law enforcement officer to enter the building, apartment, premises, place, or thing to be searched without first giving notice of the officer’s authority and purpose. A law enforcement officer executing a search warrant may not, for the purpose of executing the warrant, enter the building, apartment, premises, place, or thing to be searched unless reasonable notice of the officer’s authority and purpose has been given to any individual inside the location.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: While the bill does not materially affect State finances, it may necessitate changes to operations within affected State law enforcement agencies.

Local Effect: While the bill does not materially affect local finances, it may necessitate changes to operations within affected local law enforcement agencies.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A circuit court or District Court judge may issue a search warrant whenever a warrant application makes it apparent to the judge that there is probable cause to believe that (1) a misdemeanor or felony is being committed by a person or in a building, apartment, premises, place, or thing within the jurisdiction of the judge or (2) property subject to seizure is on the person or in or on the building, apartment, premises, place, or

thing. An application for a search warrant must be (1) in writing; (2) signed, dated, and sworn to by the applicant; and (3) accompanied by an affidavit that sets forth the basis for probable cause and contains facts within the personal knowledge of the affiant that there is probable cause.

A law enforcement officer may request, in an application for a search warrant, that a building, apartment, premises, place, or thing be searched without the officer having to provide notice of the officer's authority or purpose. To justify the request for such a warrant (also referred to as a no-knock warrant), the officer must have a reasonable suspicion that, without the authorization, the life or safety of the executing officer or another person may be in danger. An application for a no-knock search warrant must contain specified information and must be approved in writing by a police supervisor and the State's Attorney. If the warrant application justifies this request on these grounds, the search warrant must authorize the executing law enforcement officer to engage in these actions. A no-knock search warrant must be executed between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., absent exigent circumstances.

A police officer must be clearly recognizable and identifiable as a police officer while executing a search warrant. If a police officer's law enforcement agency requires the use of body-worn cameras, the police officer must use such a camera during the course of the search in accordance with the applicable policies. Unless executing a no-knock search warrant, a police officer must allow a minimum of 20 seconds for the occupants of a residence to respond and open the door before the police officer attempts to enter the residence, absent exigent circumstances.

A search and seizure under the authority of a search warrant must be made within 10 calendar days after the day that the search warrant is issued. After the expiration of the 10-day period, the search warrant is void. Additional prohibitions and requirements regarding search warrants are specified in statute.

Additional Comments: According to the *SWAT Team Deployment and No-Knock Search Warrants 2024 Report*, which was prepared by the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy, 41 no-knock search warrants were issued in the State during calendar 2024.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years; however, legislation with similar provisions has been proposed. For example, see HB 255 of 2025.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Kent, Montgomery, Washington, and Worcester counties; Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Department of State Police; Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy; Department of Legislative Services

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jg/jkb

Analysis by: Amy A. Devadas

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510