

# **MCPA-MSA\_SB 1077 School Safety Enhancement Act of**

Uploaded by: Andrea Mansfield

Position: FAV



# Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

## Maryland Sheriffs' Association



### MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair and  
Members of the Budget and Taxation Committee

FROM: Darren Popkin, Executive Director, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee  
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee  
Natasha Mehu, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: February 28, 2024

RE: **SB 1077 Public Schools – Appropriations for School Safety Expenditures – Increase  
(School Safety Enhancement Act of 2024)**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT SB 1077**. This bill increases funding for school resource officers to provide adequate law enforcement coverage if a school is not assigned a school resource officer.

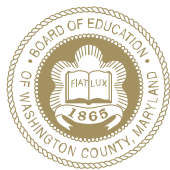
A school resource officer is a law enforcement officer who works closely with administrators in a school setting to create a safer environment for students and staff. In this role, the SRO also provides mentoring and conducts presentations on youth-related issues. Because of this broader role in a school system, an SRO participates in a specialized training program designed specifically for working with students in a school setting. This training curriculum includes Maryland school law, trauma-informed counseling, restorative practices, relationship building, and peer mediation techniques. To employ the skills taught through this training an SRO must work in the school system, engage with students, build positive relationships, and direct students to resources. For many students, an SRO is a positive role model in which they can trust and confide in. These strong relationships build community trust and understanding and improve safety in the school environment.

MCPA and MSA support an increase in funding for this purpose and encourage greater flexibility in how funds may be used. Under current guidelines, if an existing law enforcement officer receives training and transfers to an SRO unit, funds cannot be used to replace the law enforcement officer who transferred. As Chiefs and Sheriffs manage their agency budgets, this flexibility to use funds for this purpose as long as the number of SRO positions in the unit increases would meet the specified intent of the law while ensuring other agencies' needs are met. For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT SB 1077**.

**SB 1077 support WCBOE 2-28-24 (final).pdf**

Uploaded by: Jamie Brown

Position: FAV



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**BILL:** Senate Bill 1077 / House Bill 1336  
**TITLE:** Public Schools – Appropriations for School Safety Expenditures – School Security Employees  
**HEARING DATE:** February 28, 2024 / February 27, 2024  
**POSITION:** SUPPORT  
**COMMITTEE:** Senate Budget and Taxation / House Appropriations  
**CONTACT:** Mr. Steve Edwards, Deputy Communications Officer (301-766-8914)

The Washington County Board of Education supports Senate Bill 1077 as it aligns with the Board’s 2024 legislative priority of encouraging the state to allocate additional funding for school security employees and school resource officers to help achieve the goal of providing a safe and secure learning environment for students and staff.

Washington County Public Schools enjoys a strong partnership with our local law enforcement agencies who provide school resource officers for our campuses. However, unlike most boards of education, Washington County Board of Education is responsible for the full cost (i.e., salary and benefits) for these school resources officers and reimburses Washington County Government and the City of Hagerstown the costs of the officers from its maintenance of effort funding which is intended to cover instructional expenses. The cost to the Board of Education under the contracts with the respective agencies has increased from \$849,607 in Fiscal Year 2022 to over \$1.2 million in Fiscal Year 2023. The Board of Education anticipates a total cost of over \$1.5 million being paid to Washington County Government and the City of Hagerstown for school resource officers in Fiscal Year 2024, an increase of more than \$250,000 from the previous fiscal year.

However, because school safety and security is a priority for the Board of Education, this year it made an investment of just over \$800,000, in addition to the \$1.5 million paid for school resources officers, to hire 19 school safety and security assistants to further enhance school safety at each secondary school in Hagerstown and Williamsport. The return on this investment is clearly evident. These new safety and security assistants have made our schools safer, been proactive in addressing safety concerns, assisted in responding to concerning student behaviors, and helped grow a positive school culture. They each have developed a positive rapport with their respective school communities and most importantly, the students they serve each day. Their important work was best characterized by one of our high school principals whose school has benefited greatly from the addition of our school safety and security assistants. He said, quote, “We’re not policing students, we’re supporting students.”

The additional funding provided under Senate Bill 1077 will be important in helping to enhance safety efforts at schools across Maryland. Just as, if not more important, is the flexibility this bill will offer by allowing LEAs to utilize resources provided through the School Safety Fund to support school security employees, not just school resource officers as it currently does and from which Washington County Public Schools benefits from through the receipt of a grant of \$324,000 to provide adequate police coverage in our schools. Both school security employees and school resource officers are important components of achieving the goal of providing a safe and secure learning environment for students and staff.

*The Washington County Board of Education respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 1077.*

Thank you.

Cc: Washington County Board of Education Members  
Washington County Delegation to the Maryland General Assembly  
Dr. David T. Sovine, Superintendent  
Dr. Jennifer Webster, Associate Superintendent for Administration and Leadership  
Dr. Garry Willow, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction  
Mr. Jeffrey Proulx, Chief Operating Officer  
Ms. Ilissa Ramm, Chief Legal Counsel  
Mr. Steve Ganley, Safety and Security Coordinator  
Mr. John Woolums, Director of Governmental Relations, Maryland Association of Boards of Education  
Ms. Mary Pat Fannon, Executive Director, Public School Superintendents' Association of Maryland

# **SB 1077 School Safety Expenditures.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jeffrey Lawson

Position: FAV



*Serving Learners, Families, and the Community*

# CECIL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT SERVICES

GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER EDUCATION LEADERSHIP CENTER  
201 BOOTH STREET • ELKTON, MD 21921

phone: 410.996.5490 • fax: 410.996.1062 • [www.ccps.org](http://www.ccps.org)

Jeffrey A. Lawson, Ed.D.  
*Superintendent of Schools*

Diana B. Hawley  
*President, Board of Education*

### **Written Testimony:**

### **Senate Bill 1077 – Public Schools – Appropriations for School Safety Expenditures**

### **Senator Guy Guzzone, Chair**

February 23, 2024

Jeffrey A. Lawson, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
Cecil County Public Schools

Please be advised that on behalf of Cecil County Public Schools, I am requesting that Senate Bill 1077 – Public Schools – Appropriations for School Safety Expenditures, be given a favorable recommendation by the Budget and Taxation Committee.

Cecil County Public Schools is in favor of increasing the Safe School Grant Fund from \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000 in Fiscal Year 2026, and increasing the Safe School Grant Fund from \$15,000,000 to \$20,000,000 in Fiscal Year 2027. We would like to see the funds able to be used for various school safety initiatives and have the flexibility for determining how the Safe Schools Fund Grant can be used given the uncertainty of the IAC school safety grant for school security improvements moving forward.

We would also like to emphasize that we would like the current county funding formula to still be utilized when determining county grant allocations moving forward.

For these reasons, the Cecil County Public Schools supports SB 1077 and **requests a favorable committee report.**

Sincerely,

Jeffrey A. Lawson, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

**Senate Bill 1077 MCSS letter of support.pdf**

Uploaded by: Kimberly Buckheit

Position: FAV



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<b>Bill:</b>	Senate Bill 1077	<b>Date:</b>	February 28, 2024
<b>Title:</b>	Public Schools - Appropriations for School Safety Expenditures - School Security Employees	<b>Committee:</b>	Education, Energy & Environment
<b>Position:</b>	Letter of Support	<b>Contact:</b>	Kim Buckheit <a href="mailto:kim.buckheit1@maryland.gov">kim.buckheit1@maryland.gov</a> 443-902-0622

On behalf of the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS), thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of support for Senate Bill 1077. MCSS remains committed to assisting Local Education Agencies (LEA) in implementing a layered approach to school safety.

MCSS fully supports county governments and school systems in making decisions about local school safety personnel and other layered approaches to school safety and security. The School Resource Officer (SRO) Grant Program is a non-competitive grant program designed for LEAs and law enforcement agencies to meet statutory requirements to provide each public school in Maryland with an SRO or adequate law enforcement coverage. Senate Bill 1077 would increase flexibility for locals to use this grant to support local decisions to include School Security Employees (SSEs) as part of the multi-pronged approach to school safety and security.

SSEs are individuals who (1) are not SROs, (2) are employed by the LEA to provide safety and security-related services at a public school, and (3) are required to complete the MCSS SRO/SSE model training. MCSS supports the creation of diverse school safety and security teams that include **both** SROs and SSEs, as each provides opportunities for strong connections with students, caregivers, and school personnel. As an employee of the LEA, the SSE works closely with school-based leaders on safety and security measures, often outside law enforcement's scope. The SSE can be closely involved in student behavior support, providing interventions to prevent, mitigate, and restore harm, something that an SRO can't do given their law enforcement duties.

MCSS's support for Senate Bill 1077 and the use of SSEs by local jurisdictions is not counter to support for SROs, as again, each position working together creates a layered approach to school safety.

Thank you again for taking the time to review this information and consider giving Senate Bill 1077 a favorable vote.

# **Caroline County LOS.pdf**

Uploaded by: Paul Corderman

Position: FAV

**BILL:** SB1077  
**TITLE:** Public Schools - Appropriations for School Safety Expenditures - School Security Employees  
**DATE:** February 23, 2024  
**POSITION:** Support with Amendments  
**COMMITTEE:** Senate Budget and Taxation  
**CONTACT:** Derek L. Simmons, Ed.D.

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Caroline County Public Schools and the Caroline County Board of Education **supports Senate Bill 1077 with amendments.**

As stated in the fiscal note, this bill increases the annual mandated appropriation to the School Safety Fund which will provide grants to local school systems or law enforcement agencies. This funding will assist in providing adequate law enforcement coverage for public schools, from \$10 million to \$15 million in FY26 and to \$20 million in FY27 and each year thereafter.

The funding provided under this program is vital for school systems, not only to maintain a safe school community but also to strengthen safety efforts. Our school system has been able to utilize these funds to provide School Resource Officer coverage during the school day, as well as trainings and other safety measures. It also enables us to provide adequate law enforcement coverage for school/community events that occur outside of the school day, such as athletic events, dances, and commencement ceremonies.

The proposed increase in funding will allow our school system to maintain the level of coverage that our students, staff, and community have come to depend on while the costs to provide such has increased. Additionally, the increased funding provides opportunities to enhance our safety efforts in an ever-evolving landscape.

Caroline County Public Schools is requesting an amendment to the original bill to revert the basis of funding to the current model, rather than the proposed model basing funding respective to the proportion of students. School safety is a campus-wide approach when it comes to the deployment of school safety personnel. Funding school systems on the proposed model disproportionately impacts 17 of the 24 school districts. Every school system faces similar challenges as it relates to costs associated with adequate coverage for each school, regardless of the number of students served in each school building.

For these reasons, Caroline County Public Schools requests a **favorable with amendments** committee report for Senate Bill 1077.

# **Queen Anne's County LOS.pdf**

Uploaded by: Paul Corderman

Position: FAV



February 21, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this correspondence as a letter of support for Senator Corderman's initiative to increase funding for Bill 7-1512(g). The funding allocation for this grant has not been increased since its inception in 2018. In the last six years, the needs of every school district in Maryland have changed, and costs have significantly increased. The current language in the statute says the allocation must be "at least" \$10 million dollars, which would allow a precedent for an increase.

With increased funding, school districts throughout the State would be afforded the opportunity to expand the School Resource Officer program, and employ secondary positions to further enhance school safety. The School Resource Officer program has made a positive impact in Queen Anne's County Public Schools. Increasing funding and expanding this already successful program would benefit every student and staff member in our District. We wholeheartedly support an increase in funding for Bill 7-1512(g).

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patricia Saelens".

Dr. Patricia Saelens,  
Superintendent

# **SB 1077 Amendment.pdf**

Uploaded by: Paul Corderman

Position: FAV



**SB1077/663325/1**

AMENDMENTS  
PREPARED  
BY THE  
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE  
SERVICES

22 FEB 24  
10:49:31

BY: Senator Corderman  
(To be offered in the Budget and Taxation Committee)

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 1077  
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, strike beginning with “altering” in line 5 down through “enrollment;” in line 6.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 3, in lines 19 and 20, in each instance, strike the brackets; and in the same lines, in each instance, strike “STUDENTS ENROLLED”.

**SB 1077 Final Reprint.pdf**

Uploaded by: Paul Corderman

Position: FAV



UNOFFICIAL COPY OF SENATE BILL 1077

SENATE BILL 1077

F1

4lr2555  
CF 4lr2893

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By: **Senator Corderman**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2024

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Schools - Appropriations for School Safety Expenditures -**  
3 **School Security Employees**

4 FOR the purpose of increasing certain annual appropriations for certain school safety  
5 expenditures beginning in certain fiscal years; ~~altering the allocation of certain funds~~  
6 ~~to be based on student enrollment~~; authorizing local school systems to use certain  
7 funds for school security employees; and generally relating to appropriations for  
8 school safety expenditures and school security employees.

9 BY renumbering

10 Article - Education  
11 Section 7-1508(h)  
12 to be Section 7-1508(i)  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

16 Article - Education  
17 Section 7-1501(k) and 7-1508(e)  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

20 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

21 Article - Education  
22 Section 7-1508(g)  
23 Annotated Code of Maryland  
24 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

25 BY adding to

26 Article - Education  
27 Section 7-1508(h)

2

**UNOFFICIAL COPY OF SENATE BILL 1077**

1 Annotated Code of Maryland  
2 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

3 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
4 That Section(s) 17-1508(h) of Article - Education of the Annotated Code of Maryland be  
5 renumbered to be Section(s) 7-1508(i).

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read  
7 as follows:

8 **Article - Education**

9 7-1501.

10 (k) "School security employee" means an individual, as defined in regulations  
11 adopted by the Subcabinet, who:

12 (1) Is not a school resource officer; and

13 (2) Is employed by a local school system to provide safety and  
14 security-related services at a public school.

15 7-1508.

16 (e) (1) Before the 2018-2019 school year begins, each local school system shall  
17 file a report with the Center identifying:

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

20 (ii) If a public high school in the local school system's jurisdiction is  
21 not assigned a school resource officer, the adequate local law enforcement coverage that  
22 will be provided to the public high school.

23 (2) Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, and each school year  
24 thereafter, before the school year begins, each local school system shall, in accordance with  
25 the plan developed under subsection (d)(2) of this section, file a report identifying:

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

28 (ii) If a public school in the local school system's jurisdiction is not  
29 assigned a school resource officer, the adequate local law enforcement coverage that will be  
30 provided to the public school.

31 (3) On or before October 1, 2018, and each October 1 thereafter, the Center  
32 shall submit a summary of the reports required under this subsection to the Governor and,

3

**UNOFFICIAL COPY OF SENATE BILL 1077**

1 in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

2 (g) (1) **(I)** [For] **BEGINNING IN** fiscal year 2020 and [each fiscal year  
3 thereafter] **ENDING IN FISCAL YEAR 2025**, the Governor shall include in the annual  
4 budget bill an appropriation of \$10,000,000 to the Fund for the purpose of providing grants  
5 to local school systems and local law enforcement agencies to assist in meeting the  
6 requirements of subsection (e) of this section.

7 **(II) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN**  
8 **THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF \$15,000,000 TO THE FUND FOR**  
9 **THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING GRANTS TO LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS AND LOCAL LAW**  
10 **ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO ASSIST IN MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF**  
11 **SUBSECTIONS (E) AND (H) OF THIS SECTION.**

12 **(III) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR**  
13 **THEREAFTER, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN**  
14 **APPROPRIATION OF \$20,000,000 TO THE FUND FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING**  
15 **GRANTS TO LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO**  
16 **ASSIST IN MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTIONS (E) AND (H) OF THIS**  
17 **SECTION.**

18 (2) Grants provided under this subsection shall be made to each local  
19 school system based on the number of ~~schools~~ ~~STUDENTS ENROLLED~~ in each school  
20 system in proportion to the total number of ~~public schools~~ ~~STUDENTS ENROLLED~~ in the  
21 State in the prior year.

22 **(H) A LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM MAY USE FUNDS PROVIDED UNDER**  
23 **SUBSECTION (G) OF THIS SECTION FOR SCHOOL SECURITY EMPLOYEES.**

24 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
25 1, 2024.

# **SB 1077 Sen Corderman Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Paul Corderman

Position: FAV

PAUL D. CORDERMAN  
*Legislative District 2*  
Frederick and Washington Counties

Budget and Taxation Committee

*Subcommittees*

Capital Budget

Education, Business and Administration



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 403  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3903 · 301-858-3903  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3903  
Paul.Corderman@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 28, 2024

Senate Budget & Tax Committee  
Chair Guy Guzzone  
Vice Chair Jim Rosapepe  
3 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill SB 1077 – Public Schools – Appropriations for School Safety Expenditures – School Security Employees**

Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe, & Members of the Budget & Tax Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB 1077. The School Resource Officers Adequate Funding Grant state allocation amount has been set at \$10 million dollars since its inception in 2018 as a part of the Safe to Learn Act. This grant fund can only be utilized to hire sworn law enforcement officers as SROs to provide adequate coverage. Currently there isn't flexibility to hire secondary School Security Employees, such as retired law enforcement officers.

SB 1077 will increase this grant allocation from \$10 million to \$15 million in fiscal 2026, and to \$20 million in fiscal 2027 and each year thereafter. Additionally, it expands the authorized uses of the grant funds to include school security employees so that school systems have more flexibility in hiring security staff in our schools. Finally, there is a change to allocated funding on per pupil basis as opposed to a per school basis. However, we have submitted an amendment to change that back to the language in the original statute.

Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully ask for a favorable report on SB 1077.

Sincerely,

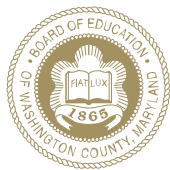
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul D. Corderman".

Paul D. Corderman  
District 2 – Washington & Frederick Counties

**SB 1077 Support (SG) 2-28-24.pdf**

Uploaded by: Steve Ganley

Position: FAV



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**BILL:** Senate Bill 1077 / House Bill 1336  
**TITLE:** Public Schools – Appropriations for School Safety Expenditures – School Security Employees  
**HEARING DATE:** February 28, 2024 / February 27, 2024  
**POSITION:** SUPPORT  
**COMMITTEE:** Senate Budget and Taxation / House Appropriations  
**CONTACT:** Mr. Steve Edwards, Deputy Communications Officer (301-766-8914)

Good afternoon. My name is Steve Ganley and I serve as the Supervisor of Safety and Security for Washington County Public Schools. I am here to voice my support, and the support of the Washington County Board of Education, for Senate Bill 1077.

Keeping schools safe is a top priority in every community across the state and a critical component of providing students with an education that prepares them for college or career. Safety is strongly linked to student success. Students learn best when they are in a safe, positive school environment where they can focus on their studies as opposed to worrying about their safety and well-being.

Senate Bill 1077 will help local boards of education enhance school safety and security by not only making additional grant funding available to local school systems and law enforcement agencies, but also providing the flexibility for the funds to be used for school security employees in addition to school resource officers.

Washington County Public Schools enjoys a strong partnership with our local law enforcement agencies who provide school resource officers for our campuses. Because school safety and security is a priority for the Board of Education, this year it made an investment of just over \$800,000 to hire 19 school safety and security assistants to further enhance school safety at each secondary school in Hagerstown and Williamsport. The return on this investment is clearly evident. These new safety and security assistants have made our schools safer, been proactive in addressing safety concerns, assisted in responding to concerning student behaviors, and helped grow a positive school culture. They each have developed a positive rapport with their respective school communities and most importantly, the students they serve each day. Their important work was best characterized by one of our high school principals whose school has benefited greatly from the addition of our school safety and security assistants. He said, quote, “We’re not policing students, we’re supporting students.”

The additional funding provided under House Bill 1336 will be important in helping to enhance safety efforts at schools across Maryland. Just as, if not more important, is the flexibility this bill will offer by allowing LEAs to utilize resources provided through the School Safety Fund to support school security employees, not just school resource officers as it currently does and from which Washington County Public Schools benefits from through the receipt of a grant of \$324,000 to provide adequate police coverage in our schools. Both school security employees and school resource officers are important components of achieving the goal of providing a safe and secure learning environment for students and staff.

*On behalf of the Washington County Board of Education, I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 1077.*

Thank you.

Cc: Washington County Board of Education Members  
Washington County Delegation to the Maryland General Assembly  
Dr. David T. Sovine, Superintendent  
Dr. Jennifer Webster, Associate Superintendent for Administration and Leadership  
Dr. Garry Willow, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction  
Mr. Jeffrey Proulx, Chief Operating Officer  
Ms. Ilissa Ramm, Chief Legal Counsel  
Mr. Steve Ganley, Safety and Security Coordinator  
Mr. John Woolums, Director of Governmental Relations, Maryland Association of Boards of Education  
Ms. Mary Pat Fannon, Executive Director, Public School Superintendents' Association of Maryland



# **Legislation Support Letter SB1077 2024.pdf**

Uploaded by: Derek Simmons

Position: FWA

**BILL:** SB1077  
**TITLE:** Public Schools - Appropriations for School Safety Expenditures - School Security Employees  
**DATE:** February 23, 2024  
**POSITION:** Support with Amendments  
**COMMITTEE:** Senate Budget and Taxation  
**CONTACT:** Derek L. Simmons, Ed.D.

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Caroline County Public Schools and the Caroline County Board of Education **supports Senate Bill 1077 with amendments.**

As stated in the fiscal note, this bill increases the annual mandated appropriation to the School Safety Fund which will provide grants to local school systems or law enforcement agencies. This funding will assist in providing adequate law enforcement coverage for public schools, from \$10 million to \$15 million in FY26 and to \$20 million in FY27 and each year thereafter.

The funding provided under this program is vital for school systems, not only to maintain a safe school community but also to strengthen safety efforts. Our school system has been able to utilize these funds to provide School Resource Officer coverage during the school day, as well as trainings and other safety measures. It also enables us to provide adequate law enforcement coverage for school/community events that occur outside of the school day, such as athletic events, dances, and commencement ceremonies.

The proposed increase in funding will allow our school system to maintain the level of coverage that our students, staff, and community have come to depend on while the costs to provide such has increased. Additionally, the increased funding provides opportunities to enhance our safety efforts in an ever-evolving landscape.

Caroline County Public Schools is requesting an amendment to the original bill to revert the basis of funding to the current model, rather than the proposed model basing funding respective to the proportion of students. School safety is a campus-wide approach when it comes to the deployment of school safety personnel. Funding school systems on the proposed model disproportionately impacts 17 of the 24 school districts. Every school system faces similar challenges as it relates to costs associated with adequate coverage for each school, regardless of the number of students served in each school building.

For these reasons, Caroline County Public Schools requests a **favorable with amendments** committee report for Senate Bill 1077.

**MD Catholic Conference\_SB 1077\_FWA.pdf**

Uploaded by: Garrett O'Day

Position: FWA



MARYLAND  
CATHOLIC  
CONFERENCE

**February 28, 2024**

**SB 1077**

**Public Schools – School Safety Grant Program – Extension**

**Senate Budget & Taxation Committee**

**Position: FAVORABLE w/ Amendments**

The Maryland Catholic Conference offers this testimony in support of favorable with amendments for Senate Bill 1077. The Catholic Conference is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government. We offer this testimony on behalf of the families of more than 50,000 students served by over 150 PreK-12 Catholic schools in Maryland.

Senate Bill 1077 increases the annual appropriation for the Safe Schools Fund from \$10,000,000 to \$20,000,000 by fiscal year 2027. The Safe Schools Fund provides grants to local school systems and local law enforcement agencies for school safety. The bill also expands the allowable uses for the funds for the cost of school security personnel.

The safety of our school students in all Maryland schools is a paramount concern, whether they attend a public or private school. One in eight Maryland students, or around 135,000, attend a nonpublic school. Prior to 2023, the state budget was providing \$3.5 million for lower-tuition nonpublic schools to receive a per pupil allocation grant for school safety and security measures, but that has been removed this year. Especially with increased threats upon members of denominations of our diverse group of Maryland faith-based schools, security dollars are of great need. **Thus, we respectfully request that this committee provide that same \$3.5 million in this legislation through the attached amendment.**

Many of the schools with lower-income student enrollments would not have been able to complete the security upgrades without this funding and should be able to continue to do so annually. The program is making an impact statewide and is highly popular with administrators in every jurisdiction. Student safety should not be determined by whether you attend a public or nonpublic school. For this reason, we urge this committee to adopt the aforementioned amendment and issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 1077, as amended.

Amendment to SB 1077

Amendment No. 1

Page 3, line 24, insert:

**7-1513. Nonpublic School Safety Improvement Grant Program**

- (A) THERE IS A NONPUBLIC SCHOOL SAFETY IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM.
  
- (B) THE PURPOSE OF THE FUND IS TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE STATE TO ENHANCE SCHOOL SAFETY.
  
- (C) BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2025 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE GOVERNOR SHALL PROVIDE AT LEAST \$3,500,000 TO NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS THAT WERE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE AID TO NON-PUBLIC SCHOOLS R00A03.04 (FOR THE PURCHASE OF TEXTBOOKS OR COMPUTER HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE FOR LOANS TO STUDENTS IN ELIGIBLE NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS) DURING THE PRECEDING SCHOOL YEAR OR NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS THAT SERVE STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES THROUGH THE NON-PUBLIC PLACEMENT PROGRAM R00A02.07 SUBPROGRAM
  
- (D) NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN THE NONPUBLIC SCHOOL SAFETY IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAM SHALL RECEIVE A MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF \$65 PER ELIGIBLE NONPUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT FOR PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS, EXCEPT THAT AT SCHOOLS WHERE AT LEAST 20% OF THE STUDENTS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE FREE OR REDUCED-PRICE MEAL PROGRAM OR FOR SCHOOLS THAT SERVICE STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES THROUGH THE NON-PUBLIC PLACEMENT PROGRAM, THERE SHALL BE A DISTRIBUTION OF \$85 PER STUDENT, AND NO INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL MAY RECEIVE LESS THAN \$5,000.

# **SB 1077 - Public Schools - Appropriations for Scho**

Uploaded by: Mary Pat Fannon

Position: FWA



**PSSAM**  
Public School Superintendents' Association  
OF MARYLAND

**Mary Pat Fannon, Executive Director**  
1217 S. Potomac Street  
Baltimore, MD 21224  
410-935-7281  
marypat.fannon@pssam.org

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**BILL:** SB 1077

**TITLE:** Public Schools - Appropriations for School Safety Expenditures - School Security Employees

**DATE:** February 28, 2024

**POSITION:** Favorable with Amendment

**COMMITTEE:** Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

**CONTACT:** Mary Pat Fannon, Executive Director, PSSAM

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The Public School Superintendents' Association of Maryland (PSSAM), on behalf of all twenty-four public school superintendents, **supports** Senate Bill 1077 with **one amendment**.

This bill increases the annual mandated appropriation to the Safe Schools Fund to provide grants to local school systems or law enforcement agencies to assist in providing adequate law enforcement coverage for public schools, from \$10.0 million to \$15.0 million in fiscal 2026, and to \$20.0 million in fiscal 2027 and each year thereafter. The bill also (1) expands the authorized uses of the grant funds to include school security employees and (2) alters the basis for the allocation of the funds to be the proportion of students enrolled in each local school system instead of the proportion of schools in each local school system.

PSSAM requests one amendment that the grant formula revert to the current model using the number of schools, rather than the proposal based on enrollment. The current model recognizes that school safety requires a campus deployment strategy and is a more equitable funding formula.

In 2018, the General Assembly passed the Safe to Learn Act and created a comprehensive initiative for the improvement of school safety, including the creation of the Safe Schools Fund to be administered by the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS). While local districts are in need of additional funding for school safety, the existing prohibition on using the funds for school security employees has resulted in lower usage of the Fund; this is reported in the fiscal note as expenditures of \$6.2 million of the \$10.0 million mandated appropriation in FY '23. The authorization under this legislation will greatly enhance the demand and usage of the entire Fund.

For these reasons, PSSAM **supports** Senate Bill 1077 and requests a **favorable report with one amendment** to maintain the current funding formula.

**CRSD-SB1077-Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Logan Ewing

Position: UNF



# MARYLAND COALITION TO REFORM SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

## SENATE BUDGET AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

### SENATE BILL 1077: PUBLIC SCHOOLS-APPROPRIATIONS FOR SCHOOL SAFETY EXPENDITURES-SCHOOL SECURITY EMPLOYEES

DATE: FEBRUARY 28, 2024

POSITION: OPPOSE

The Maryland Coalition to Reform School Discipline (CRSD) brings together advocates, service providers, and concerned citizens interested in transforming school discipline policies and practices within Maryland's public-school system. CRSD is committed to making discipline responsive to students' behavioral needs, fair, appropriate to the infraction, and designed to keep youth on track to graduate. CRSD provides this testimony in opposition to Senate Bill 1077.

Senate Bill 1077 aims to raise the annual budget allocated to the Safe Schools Fund to \$15 million for fiscal year 2026 and \$20 million for fiscal year 2027. Current law already requires that \$10 million per year be appropriated to the Safe Schools Fund specifically for SROs and law enforcement coverage in schools. A recent state audit of the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS) finds that these funds aren't being managed appropriately or fully used.<sup>1</sup> The audit reported a "significant deficiency in the design or operation of internal control that could adversely affect MCSS' ability to maintain reliable financial records, operate effectively and efficiently, and/or comply with applicable laws, rules, and regulations."<sup>2</sup> Specifically, the state audit found that "MCSS did not ensure School Resource Officer (SRO) grant payments were properly supported and subject to independent review."<sup>3</sup>

- "MCSS did not obtain documentation to support the propriety of payments made to grantees and to ensure the grantees only claimed allowable costs."<sup>4</sup>
- "An audit test of 18 payments totaling \$2.3 million made to 8 grantees during the period from July, 2021 to April, 2022 disclosed that all 18 lacked sufficient supporting documentation."<sup>5</sup>
- "For one payment to an LEA totaling \$902,000, MCSS only received payroll reports for 13 employees with gross earnings totaling \$593,000. MCSS was not aware that the remaining \$309,000 in charges were not supported by the reports and it could not explain the difference."<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "Maryland Center for School Safety." *General Assembly of Maryland Department of Legislative Services*, 11 January 2023, <https://dls.maryland.gov/pubs/prod/NoPblTabPDF/MCSS23.pdf>. Accessed 21 January 2024.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at 10.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at 4.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* at 5.

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

- “Grant payments were not subject to supervisory review and approval... Specifically, our test of nine payments over \$100,000 disclosed that seven payments totaling \$967,000 lacked documentation of an independent supervisory approval.”<sup>7</sup>

Moreover, during fiscal years 2020 through 2022, SRO grant payments totaled \$8.0 million.<sup>8</sup> Some school systems received multiple grants to local law enforcement agencies while *other school systems did not apply for SRO grants*.<sup>9</sup> There is no reason to double the amount of funds being appropriated for SROs and law enforcement coverage when the current funding is not being fully used and there are concerns about the management of the current funds. The MCSS needs to put in place additional oversight, protocols, and accountability measures before it is given additional funding and responsibilities.

Senate Bill 1077 is also misguided because adding more police and security employees to our schools will not make our schools safer but will contribute to the school-to-prison pipeline. Studies have found that the presence of SROs has limited effects on school safety but results in negative student outcomes such as increased suspension, expulsion, police referrals and arrests.<sup>10</sup> Black students and students with disabilities are disproportionately harmed by the presence of police in schools. In Maryland, for the 2021-22 school year, Black students received 61% of school arrests despite comprising only 33.2% of the student population. Special education students received 28% of school arrests despite comprising 12% of the student population.<sup>11</sup>

The state should not increase funding for SROs, security employees, and law enforcement coverage--an ineffective and unproven safety strategy. Rather, we should focus on ensuring that the *Blueprint* plan, specifically pillar 4, is fully implemented.<sup>12</sup> Evidence-based strategies and resources such as mental and behavioral health services, community-based wraparound services, community schools and restorative approaches are *proven* strategies that serve to foster strong relationships between students and school staff to create safe school environments.<sup>13</sup>

**For these reasons, CRSD opposes Senate Bill 1077.**

For more information contact:

Maryland Coalition to Reform School Discipline (CRSD)

[CRSDMaryland@gmail.com](mailto:CRSDMaryland@gmail.com)

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<sup>7</sup> *Id.*

<sup>8</sup> *Id.* at 1 & 4.

<sup>9</sup> *Id.* at 4.

<sup>10</sup> DePaoli, J. & McCombs, J. (2023). *Safe schools, thriving students: What we know about creating safe and supportive schools*. Learning Policy Institute. <https://doi.org/10.54300/701.445>

<sup>11</sup> Maryland State Department of Education (2023), *Maryland Public Schools Arrest Data: School Year 2021-22*, <https://marylandpublicschools.org/about/Documents/DSFSS/SSSP/StudentArrest/MarylandPublicSchoolsArrestDataSY20212022.pdf>

<sup>12</sup> Maryland State Department of Education (accessed Jan. 24, 2023), *Blueprint Pillar 4: More Resources to Ensure that All Students are Successful*, <https://blueprint.marylandpublicschools.org/mreass/>.

<sup>13</sup> DePaoli, J. & McCombs, J. (2023). *Safe schools, thriving students: What we know about creating safe and supportive schools*. Learning Policy Institute. <https://doi.org/10.54300/701.445>

Respectfully Submitted,

**CRSD Members:**

Maryland Office of the Public Defender

League of Women Voters of Maryland

Disability Rights Maryland

Public Justice Center, Education Stability Project

Project HEAL (Health, Education, Advocacy, and Law) at Kennedy Krieger Institute

The Choice Program at UMBC

Progressive MD

FreeState Justice

Baltimore Alliance to Reclaim Our Schools (AROS)

Strong Schools Maryland

ACLU of Maryland

**SB1077 Written Statement\_Letter of Information.pdf**

Uploaded by: Laura Vykol-Gray

Position: INFO



**SENATE BILL 1077 Public Schools - Appropriations for School Safety Expenditures - School Security Employees**

**STATEMENT OF INFORMATION**

**DATE: February 28, 2024**

**COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation**

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Senate Bill 1077 increases the annual mandated appropriation to the Safe Schools Fund to provide grants to local school systems or law enforcement agencies to assist in providing adequate law enforcement coverage for public schools, from \$10 million to \$15 million in fiscal 2026, and to \$20.0 million in fiscal 2027 and each year thereafter. The bill also (1) expands the authorized uses of the grant funds to include school security employees and (2) alters the basis for the allocation of the funds to be the proportion of students enrolled in each local school system instead of the proportion of schools in each local school system.

**EXPLANATION:** Senate Bill 1077 increases State general fund mandated costs by \$5 million in fiscal 2026 and by \$10 million in fiscal 2027 and every year thereafter.

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) is charged with submitting a balanced budget to the General Assembly annually and will be working with the General Assembly to achieve structural balance over the long-term. In light of current projected general fund deficits in fiscal 2026 forward, the Department urges caution in passing legislation significantly reducing general fund revenues. State government must be intentional, disciplined, and strategic with its allocation of State funding to ensure maximum impact toward priority outcomes. It would be challenging for the State to manage a significant increase in spending given the forecasted out-year deficits for the General Fund.

However, DBM notes that the provisions in Senate Bill 1077 expanding authorized uses of grant funds are beneficial given that the Maryland Center for School Safety has insufficient demand for the program as it exists currently in statute. The annual appropriation has been \$10 million since fiscal 2020, yet annual grant expenditures have remained at or below \$5.2 million. Authorization to use the funds for school security employees may encourage local school systems to use a greater portion of the funds than they have in the past.

**For additional information, contact Laura Vykol-Gray at  
(410) 260-6371 or [laura.vykol@maryland.gov](mailto:laura.vykol@maryland.gov)**