

MCPA-MSA_SB 540 School Mapping Data Program_Support

Uploaded by: Andrea Mansfield

Position: FAV



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair and
Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment 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 540 - Education - School Mapping Data Program - Established**

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT SB 540**. This bill creates a School Mapping Data program and authorizes the use of Safe Schools Funds to provide grants to local school systems for this program.

SB 540 would allow local school boards in consultation with local law enforcement agencies to apply for funds through the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to produce school mapping data for each public school in the county. When an emergency occurs at a school, time is of the essence. Law enforcement has precious minutes to respond accordingly. The mapping data would provide accurate and up-to-date information on the school buildings and grounds so that first responders aren't entering the building completely blind and can coordinate appropriate entry or response.

Mapping data and funding created under this new program are critical in assisting first responders as they respond to emergencies at a school. For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT SB 540** and urge a **FAVORABLE** committee report.

2024 SB 540 -Education - School Mapping Data Progr

Uploaded by: angelo consoli

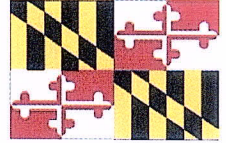
Position: FAV



CLYDE BOATWRIGHT
STATE PRESIDENT

Maryland State Lodge
FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

8302 COVE ROAD, BALTIMORE, MD 21222



KENNY SCHUBERT
SECRETARY

EARL KRATSCH
TREASURER

February 23, 2024

SB 540 – Education – School Mapping Data Program – Established

Dear Chair Feldman and Distinguished Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

The Maryland State Fraternal Order of Police **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 540 – Education – School Mapping Data Program – Established.**

Senate Bill 540 seeks to create a school mapping data program. This program would provide funds to County Boards of Education who, in consultation with their local law enforcement agency, seek to fund the digital or electronic mapping of all public schools in their County.

SB 540 further seeks to require that the mapping data shall be compatible with the software platforms used by the law enforcement agencies that provide emergency services to the schools without requiring additional software or being charged fees to view. **SB 540** also sets out other parameters for the software as well as specific design specifications and labeling that matches the structure of the school and is verified for accuracy by a walk of the school building and grounds.

In responding to the large structures and grounds that are our public schools, to have the ability to pinpoint a location, in a time of need for an injured person, up to the more complex issues faced during life threatening attacks, such as active shooters, bomb threats, or hostage situations, having the ability to accurately and rapidly respond is immeasurable. As we have seen to often in the news, threats in schools are on the rise and time is of the essence when mounting any kind of response or rescue. Having a mapping system that can be integrated and displayed in real time with the software used by public safety will allow for the quick, rapid, and pinpointed responses that are required in order to save lives, end a situation, or get to an injured person or location within the school as quick as possible. This is an essential tool that should be mandated and made available for use.

A **FAVORABLE** vote on **SB 540** will allow for the funding and creation of a crucial piece of information to first responders engaging in a rapid response to a critical incident at a public school. To have an interactive and accurate map of a school and its grounds is essential to ensure a rapid response to the exact location where services are needed. It also allows for the proper deployment of personnel on a large-scale event which will not only save lives but bring a quick and rapid end to any life-threatening attacks.

On behalf of the more than 20,000 Courageous Men and Women of the Maryland Fraternal Order of Police we thank you for your support and ask for your **FAVORABLE** vote on **Senate Bill 540 - Education – School Mapping Data Program – Established.**

Angelo L. Consoli Jr,
2nd Vice President, FOP, Maryland State Lodge
President, FOP Lodge 89, Prince George's County

2.26.2024 MSEA Senate Bill 540 Testimony_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Christian Gobel

Position: FAV

FAVORABLE
Senate Bill 540
Education – School Mapping Data Program - Established

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment
February 28, 2024

Christian Gobel
Government Relations

The Maryland State Education Association supports Senate Bill 540. Senate Bill 540 creates the School Mapping Data Program in the Maryland State Department of Education. The purpose of the program is to provide funds to county boards of education to develop school mapping data of each public school in their district that can assist public safety personnel with responding to emergencies at a public school.

MSEA represents 75,000 educators and school employees who work in Maryland's public schools, teaching and preparing our almost 900,000 students so they can pursue their dreams. MSEA also represents 39 local affiliates in every county across the state of Maryland, and our parent affiliate is the 3-million-member National Education Association (NEA).

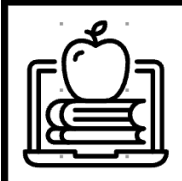
MSEA believes the development and use of school mapping data can greatly assist first responders with delivering critical life-saving assistance to students and public school employees in the event of any emergency including fire, medical, or physical threats. MSEA appreciates that the bill requires the development of the school mapping data be compatible with existing software platforms used by schools and public safety agencies, without requiring the purchase of additional software or requiring a fee to access the data. Additionally, the school mapping data produced must be verified for accuracy by a walk-through of the school buildings and grounds. MSEA believes these features of the bill will greatly support the efficacy and successful implementation of the program.

We urge the committee to issue a Favorable Report on Senate Bill 540.

SB 540 - Favorable.pdf

Uploaded by: Henry J. Meiser

Position: FAV



Coalition for Safer Schools

TO: Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment

RE: Senate Bill 540, Education – School Mapping Data Program

Mr. Chair, Madam Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee,

The Coalition for Safer Schools represents a diverse group of individuals and organizations, all of whom have stake in the success of the educational process. In this capacity, I write on behalf of our members in support of Senate Bill 540 (SB540), *“Education – School Mapping Program – Established”*.

The purpose of this program is to provide funds to local education agencies (LEAs) to develop school mapping data of each public school in their district. These maps can assist public safety personnel with responding to emergencies at a public school.

The Coalition holds that the development and subsequent use of school maps can be an invaluable resource to first responders, as they deliver critical (and sometimes lifesaving) measures to students, staff, and other members of a school community. This mapping data would provide accurate and up-to-date information on school buildings and grounds. Much of this data may already exist is not digitized, or no longer reflects the school grounds as they are today. The bill makes sure that first responders are never forced to enter a building blind, leaving them unable to coordinate and appropriate entry and response.

For these reasons, the Coalition for Safer Schools supports SB 540, and its House cross-file HB 472, and requests a favorable report.

Respectfully,

Henry J. Meiser

Executive Director

Coalition for Safer Schools

henry@schoolsafetycoalition.net



MCPA-MSA_SB 540 School Mapping Data Program_Support

Uploaded by: Natasha Mehu

Position: FAV



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Brian J. Feldman, Chair and
Members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment 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 540 - Education - School Mapping Data Program - Established**

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT SB 540**. This bill creates a School Mapping Data program and authorizes the use of Safe Schools Funds to provide grants to local school systems for this program.

SB 540 would allow local school boards in consultation with local law enforcement agencies to apply for funds through the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to produce school mapping data for each public school in the county. When an emergency occurs at a school, time is of the essence. Law enforcement has precious minutes to respond accordingly. The mapping data would provide accurate and up-to-date information on the school buildings and grounds so that first responders aren't entering the building completely blind and can coordinate appropriate entry or response.

Mapping data and funding created under this new program are critical in assisting first responders as they respond to emergencies at a school. For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT SB 540** and urge a **FAVORABLE** committee report.

DG Written Testimony_SB0540.pdf

Uploaded by: Senator Gile

Position: FAV

DAWN D. GILE
Legislative District 33
Anne Arundel County

Finance Committee

Chair

Anne Arundel County
Senate Delegation



Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street, Suite 3 East
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3568 · 301-858-3568
800-492-7122 Ext. 3568
Dawn.Gile@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of SB0540 - Education - School Mapping Data Program -
Established**

Mr. Chair, Madame Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

SB0540 authorizes the School Safety Subcabinet to use funds in the Safe Schools Fund to support a grant program to make standardized, accurate maps of schools accessible to public safety officials to ensure efficient response to any emergency on a school campus.

Why does this require legislation?

- School blueprints across the state are unusable for communication as they do not reflect the layout of the school and lack critical information about the building and campus. They are not standardized, accurate, or labeled to reflect the nomenclature of the facility, so it is difficult for first responders to communicate or orient with them. In the aftermath of the Robb Elementary School shooting in Uvalde, TX, officials found that maps “lacked sufficient detail” and were “inaccurate,” which deterred alternate entries into the classroom (DOJ Report, Texas House Report).
- School maps are inaccessible to first responders during an emergency. School blueprints are not compatible or integrated in the software systems that allow city, county, and state first responders access to maps during a crisis. After the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Newtown, CT, reports found that neither “floor plans nor schematics of the school were readily available for tactical search units” (Connecticut State Police AAR).

What does the legislation accomplish?

- Establishes a school mapping standard that is modeled off best practices from the military.
- Standardizes school maps by requiring schools to maintain a map that combines accurate facility floor plans, overhead imagery of the campus, and a gridded overlay.
- Requires school mapping data be verified by a walk-through of site when produced.
- Requires that school mapping data be compatible with existing software platforms used by both public safety agencies at the local, state, and federal-level, and that future updates to school maps be shared with public safety, without requiring those agencies to purchase special software or pay to access the school maps.

Why does a map need to be compatible software platforms used by public safety agencies for free?

- Public safety agencies at the local, state, and federal level rely upon different software systems to view maps. If the school map is compatible with multiple software systems, public safety can communicate from the same map. This allows first responders from multiple agencies and multiple disciplines (i.e., police, fire, EMS, 911, SWAT) access to mapping data regardless of the software platform they currently use. It prevents a vendor from forcing public safety to procure or use new software to get to school mapping data.

I have submitted a sponsor amendment that would have the Maryland Center for School Safety administer this bill instead of the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). The Interagency Commission on School Construction would development standards for mapping.

Per the Fiscal Note, SB0540 as amended would have a marginal cost to the state to cover the cost of hiring one education program specialist with expertise in mapping software platforms to manage and assess grant applications and award and oversee grant awards. For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on SB0540.

Sponsor Amendment_SB0540.pdf

Uploaded by: Senator Gile

Position: FAV



SB0540/963921/1

AMENDMENTS
PREPARED
BY THE
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

22 FEB 24
14:20:22

BY: Senator Gile
(To be offered in the Education, Energy, and the Environment
Committee)

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 540
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in lines 3 and 4, strike “State Department of Education” and substitute “Maryland Center for School Safety”; in line 7, strike “the Department” and substitute “local school systems”; in the same line, after “Program;” insert “requiring the Interagency Commission on School Construction to adopt facility mapping standards;”; and in line 11, strike “7-452” and substitute “5-310.1 and 7-1510.1”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, after line 21, insert:

“5-310.1.

(A) THE INTERAGENCY COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT FACILITY MAPPING STANDARDS FOR THE UNIFORM MAPPING OF THE PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE STATE.

(B) LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCIES SHALL:

(1) COOPERATE WITH THE INTERAGENCY COMMISSION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF UNIFORM MAPPING STANDARDS; AND

(2) CONTRIBUTE DATA AS REQUESTED BY THE INTERAGENCY COMMISSION.”;

and in line 22, strike “7-452.” and substitute “7-1510.1.”.

On page 2, in line 5, strike “DEPARTMENT” and substitute “CENTER”; in lines 6 and 7, strike “COUNTY BOARDS” and substitute “LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS”; in line 9, strike “COUNTY BOARD” and substitute “LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM”; in line 10, strike “DEPARTMENT” and substitute “SUBCABINET”; and in line 13, after “SHALL” insert “COMPLY WITH THE FACILITY MAPPING STANDARDS DEVELOPED BY THE INTERAGENCY COMMISSION ON SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION UNDER § 5-310.1 OF THIS ARTICLE.”

(3) THE CENTER SHALL WORK IN CONSULTATION WITH THE INTERAGENCY COMMISSION ON SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION TO ENSURE THAT SCHOOL MAPPING DATA PRODUCED WITH FUNDING FROM THE PROGRAM MEETS THE FACILITY MAPPING STANDARDS DEVELOPED UNDER § 5-310.1 OF THIS ARTICLE.

(4) AT A MINIMUM, SCHOOL MAPPING DATA PRODUCED WITH FUNDING FROM THE PROGRAM SHALL”.

On page 5, strike beginning with the second “THE” in line 2 down through “TITLE” in line 3 and substitute “LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7-1510.1 OF THIS SUBTITLE”.

2-28 SB 540. CRSD. School Mapping Data Program - 2

Uploaded by: Gail Sunderman

Position: INFO

MARYLAND COALITION TO REFORM SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

EDUCATION, ENERGY, and the ENVIRONMENT SENATE BILL 540: Education - School Mapping Data Program - Established

DATE: February 28, 2024

POSITION: Letter of Information

The Maryland Coalition to Reform School Discipline (CRSD) brings together advocates, service providers, and community members dedicated to transforming school discipline practices within Maryland’s public school systems. CRSD is committed to the fair and equitable treatment of ALL students, including pregnant or parenting students, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, religion, and socio-economic status, and reducing barriers to learning for ALL students. CRSD submits this letter of information to provide context for and articulate our concerns with SB 540, which would allow local school boards to use existing Safe School Funds to produce school mapping data for all public schools.

CRSD was unable to find independent research supporting the efficacy of school mapping. This search included a thorough examination of the current academic literature, resources published by the National Center for School Safety, and the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

There are considerable cost concerns. We do not know how much it will cost to create maps of every school in a district or how many schools might have existing maps. We also do not know what it will cost—or where the funding will come from—to provide training to ensure that school personnel effectively use these maps and incorporate them into their school safety planning process. Or how much it will cost to maintain up-to-date maps.

Most importantly, this bill does not expand the Safe Schools Fund. As the fiscal note clearly explains, **by authorizing grants for school data mapping, “fewer funds are available for other authorized purposes.”** The bill also increases general fund expenditures to cover the salary of an education program specialist with expertise in mapping software platforms to manage grants and other costs.

Data mapping is a new technology that has not been widely used in schools and does not focus on the most effective strategies that enhance school safety. We urge the Maryland General Assembly and the Maryland Center for School Safety to focus the funds’ finite resources on evidence-based practices by expanding behavioral health services, fully implementing restorative practices, and supporting schools in building healthy, supportive relationships. For these reasons, CRSD has concerns about the efficacy of SB 540.

For more information contact: Maryland Coalition to Reform School Discipline
CRSDMaryland@gmail.com

CRSD Members

ACLU of Maryland

The Choice Program at UMBC

League of Women Voters of Maryland

Camila Reynolds-Dominguez, FreeState Justice

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

Maryland Office of the Public Defender

Sayra and Neil Meyerhoff Center for Children, Families and the Courts

SB540 MCSS 2024.pdf

Uploaded by: Kimberly Buckheit

Position: INFO

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|------------------|---|-------------------|--|
| Bill: | Senate Bill 540 | Date: | February 28, 2024 |
| Title: | Education - School Mapping Data Program - Established | Committee: | Education, Energy, & Environment |
| Position: | Letter of Information | Contact: | Kim Buckheit kim.buckheit1@maryland.gov 443-902-0622 |

On behalf of the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS), thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of information for Senate Bill 540.

MCSS strongly supports efforts to improve the quality and utility of school mapping data and its availability to authorized users such as first responders to ensure the safety and security of school occupants and communities. However, MCSS would like to highlight three concerns with Senate Bill 540 as currently drafted.

1. MCSS currently administers the Safe Schools Fund on behalf of the School Safety Subcabinet and the School Safety Grant Program (SSGP) on behalf of the Interagency Commission on Public School Construction (IAC). As drafted, the bill creates an unnecessary complication by transferring funds to MSDE to award to local school systems and law enforcement agencies to support mapping of schools. **Grant administration for a school mapping program could be managed by MCSS** and not MSDE.
2. MCSS acknowledges that school mapping data is currently being generated by school districts and the State for other purposes including multiple aspects of facilities management such as facilities maintenance, facilities-portfolio planning, and capital budgeting and funding. To prevent the duplication of efforts by various State and local agencies and the waste of scarce local and State resources, it is essential that all school-mapping efforts conform to standards that support all of the uses of such data described above. MCSS respectfully suggests that, as the two agencies primarily responsible for conducting or facilitating the activities described above, **MCSS and the IAC be tasked with identifying the standards** under which school mapping be conducted.

3. It is estimated digital maps of a school would cost local school systems between \$1,000 to \$3,000 per school, depending on the size and complexity of the facility and mapping specifications. Although local school systems and law enforcement agencies would be able to receive grants for this purpose through the Safe Schools Fund, the current appropriation amount would not be sufficient to meet the total cost for most Maryland jurisdictions, even if the entirety of their allocation was used for this singular purpose. Excluding funding for School Resource Officers (SROs), the **Safe Schools Fund¹ has been funded with \$600,000 dollars (\$25,000 per school system)** for the last three years.

MCSS remains committed to assisting local school systems in the implementation of a layered approach to school safety. The inclusion of emerging technologies is one element of a well designed school safety plan.

Thank you again for taking the time to review this information as you consider Senate Bill 540.

¹ The Safe Schools Fund includes funding that is separately allocated for School Resource Officers and adequate law enforcement coverage in the amount of \$10MM and \$600,000 for the categories eligible under Ed. Art. §7-1512(f).