

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

2024 Legislative Session

Bill No. CB-009-2024

Chapter No. 13

Proposed and Presented by Council Members Oriadha and Olson

Introduced by Council Members Oriadha and Olson

Co-Sponsors

Date of Introduction April 23, 2024

BILL

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Emergency 9-1-1 Voluntary Call Registry

3 For the purpose of establishing the voluntary registry for emergency 9-1-1 calls, known as the
4 Emergency 9-1-1 Voluntary Call Registry, to alert certain first responders of certain behaviors,
5 diagnoses, or traits of individuals with special needs that may be present during certain
6 encounters with first responders.

7 BY repealing and reenacting with amendments:

8 SUBTITLE 6. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

9 Sections 6-145 through 6-148

10 The Prince George's County Code

11 (2023 Edition).

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County,
13 Maryland, that Sections 6-145 through 6-148 of the Prince George's County Code be and the
14 same are hereby added:

15 SUBTITLE 6. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

16 DIVISION 7. OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS.

17 Sec. 6-145. Office of Public Safety Communications

18 Pursuant to the Charter, within the Office of Homeland Security, there shall be an Office of
19 Public Safety Communication responsible for the management of an integrated public safety and
20 emergency communication system.

21 Sec. 6-145. Definitions.

1 In this Division the following words and terms shall have the following meanings:

- 2 (a) **Department** means the Prince George’s County Office of Public Safety
 3 Communication.
- 4 (b) **First Responder** means an individual dispatched to assist a member of the public
 5 through a 9-1-1 system subject to Sec. 6-148. It includes an individual who provides the
 6 Police Department, Fire/EMS, Mobile Crisis Response, Sheriff Department, and
 7 Municipalities with information about another individual regarding certain behaviors,
 8 diagnoses, or traits of individuals with special needs.
- 9 (c) **9-1-1 Specialist** means an employee of a County public safety answering point whose
 10 duties and responsibilities include: receiving and processing 911 requests for emergency
 11 services or dispatching law enforcement officers, fire rescue services, emergency medical
 12 services, and other public safety services to the scene of an emergency.

13 **Sec. 6-146. Established.**

- 14 (a) The Department shall maintain an Emergency 9-1-1 Voluntary Call Registry that
 15 enables an adult, parent, or guardian of a minor child, or individual with guardianship
 16 of the person to provide information to the Department via the registry to alert First
 17 Responder(s) encountering a registered individual that the individual:
- 18 (1) May exhibit certain behaviors, including that the individual may be:
- 19 (A) Nonspeaking or the user of a communication device,
 20 (B) Sensitive to loud sounds,
 21 (C) Sensitive to bright lights,
 22 (D) Sensitive to touch,
 23 (E) Delayed with response times,
 24 (F) Prone to avoid eye contact,
 25 (G) Unaware of danger, or
 26 (H) Prone to wander or elope, or
- 27 (2) Has one or more of the following diagnoses or traits:
- 28 (A) Blind or low vision;
 29 (B) Deaf or hard of hearing;
 30 (C) Wheelchair user;
 31 (D) Alzheimer’s or dementia;

- 1 (E) Autism;
- 2 (F) Mental health disability;
- 3 (G) Intellectual disability;
- 4 (H) Physical disability; or
- 5 (I) Developmental disability.

6 (b) Participation in the Emergency 9-1-1 Voluntary Call Registry program under this
7 Division does not create a private cause of action.

8 (c) The Department shall provide information to the public about the program and inform
9 the public about how to register for the program.

10 (1) A registrant may opt-into the program at any time.

11 (2) Annual notifications will be sent to all active registrants on October 1st,
12 November 1st, and December 1st for the purpose of confirming continued
13 participation.

14 (3) Any registrant that fails to confirm continued participation on or before December
15 31st of each year, shall be automatically deleted from the registry as of January 1st.

16 (4) It is the responsibility of the registrant to ensure the information provided in the
17 registry is up to date and accurate.

18 (5) One residential address is required to participate in the registry.

19 (6) The Department shall provide information to the public about how to opt out of
20 the program.

21 (d) Any adult, parent, guardian of a minor child, or individual with guardianship of the
22 person who provides information for the registry shall use the form provided by the
23 Department, certify to the accuracy of the information provided, and agree to notify the
24 Department of any changes using the form provided by the Department.

25 **Sec. 6-147 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Provision for the**
26 **Emergency 9-1-1 Voluntary Call Registry**

27 Participation in the Emergency 9-1-1 Voluntary Call Registry is entirely voluntary and
28 requires the authorization of the registrant to provide health information about an individual
29 with certain behaviors, diagnoses, or traits of special needs.

30 All information provided by registrants for inclusion in the 9-1-1 registry shall be treated as
31 confidential and protected health information (PHI) under HIPAA regulations. The information

1 stored in the registry shall only be accessed and utilized for the purpose of providing timely and
 2 appropriate emergency medical care or assistance during emergency situations. Any other use or
 3 disclosure of this information is strictly prohibited except as otherwise required by law. By
 4 participating in the registry, registrants acknowledge and consent to the collection and use of the
 5 health information provided as outlined in this provision, in accordance with HIPAA regulations.

6 **Sec. 6-148. Exceptions.**

7 The Office of Public Safety Communication is not responsible for the management of an
 8 integrated public safety and emergency communication system for the following entities with
 9 jurisdiction within the County:

- 10 (a) Maryland State Police;
- 11 (b) Maryland Park Police;
- 12 (c) Bladensburg;
- 13 (d) Bowie;
- 14 (e) Greenbelt;
- 15 (f) Hyattsville;
- 16 (g) Laurel; or
- 17 (h) Riverdale Park.

18 SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the provisions of this Act are hereby
 19 declared to be severable; and, in the event that any section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph,
 20 sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional by a court of
 21 competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the remaining
 22 words, phrases, clauses, sentences, subparagraphs, paragraphs, subsections, or sections of this
 23 Act, since the same would have been enacted without the incorporation in this Act of any such
 24 invalid or unconstitutional word, phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, subparagraph, subsection,
 25 or section.

26 SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that any previously existing obligations or
 27 contract rights may not be impaired by this Act.

28 SECTION 4. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the Office of Public Safety
 29 Communications shall have until July 1, 2024 to implement the provisions of this Act.

30 SECTION 5. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Act shall take effect on forty-five (45)
 31 calendar days after it becomes law.

Adopted this 4th day of June, 2024.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: Jolene Ivey
Jolene Ivey
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

DATE: June 24, 2024 BY: Angela Alsobrooks
Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive

KEY:

Underscoring indicates language added to existing law.

[Brackets] indicate language deleted from existing law.

Asterisks *** indicate intervening existing Code provisions that remain unchanged.

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