

SENATE BILL 516

E4

6lr2574
CF 6lr2153

By: Senator Waldstreicher

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2026

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Law Enforcement – Protective Body Armor – Requirements and Reporting**

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

14 BY adding to

15 Article – Public Safety

16 Section 3–535

17 Annotated Code of Maryland

18 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

20 Article – Public Safety

21 Section 4–101(a) and (e)

22 Annotated Code of Maryland

23 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

24 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

25 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

26 **Article – Public Safety**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 3-535.

2 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
3 INDICATED.

4 (2) "COMMISSION" MEANS THE MARYLAND POLICE TRAINING AND
5 STANDARDS COMMISSION.

6 (3) "LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN §
7 3-201 OF THIS TITLE.

8 (4) "PROTECTIVE BODY ARMOR" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN §
9 4-101 OF THIS ARTICLE.

10 (B) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A LAW
11 ENFORCEMENT AGENCY MAY NOT ASSIGN A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER TO DUTIES
12 OTHER THAN ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES UNLESS THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
13 IS ISSUED PROTECTIVE BODY ARMOR.

14 (2) A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY MAY ISSUE ONLY PROTECTIVE
15 BODY ARMOR TO A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER THAT:

16 (I) CONFORMS TO ALL CURRENT NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
17 JUSTICE BALLISTIC RESISTANCE OF BODY ARMOR STANDARDS; AND

18 (II) HAS NOT REACHED THE EXPIRATION OR SUGGESTED
19 REPLACEMENT DATE INDICATED BY THE MANUFACTURER OF THE PROTECTIVE
20 BODY ARMOR.

21 (3) A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY SHALL REPLACE PROTECTIVE
22 BODY ARMOR BEFORE THE EXPIRATION OR SUGGESTED REPLACEMENT DATE
23 INDICATED BY THE MANUFACTURER.

24 (C) (1) IF A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY HAS NOT REPLACED A LAW
25 ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S PROTECTIVE BODY ARMOR BY THE 31ST DAY AFTER THE
26 EXPIRATION OR SUGGESTED REPLACEMENT DATE INDICATED BY THE
27 MANUFACTURER, THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY SHALL PROMPTLY NOTIFY THE
28 COMMISSION.

29 (2) AFTER RECEIVING NOTIFICATION UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF
30 THIS SUBSECTION, THE COMMISSION SHALL NOTIFY THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
31 CRIME PREVENTION AND POLICY THAT THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY HAS

1 FAILED TO REPLACE PROTECTIVE BODY ARMOR IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION
2 (B) OF THIS SECTION.

3 (3) AFTER RECEIVING NOTIFICATION UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF
4 THIS SUBSECTION, THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION AND POLICY
5 SHALL WITHHOLD GRANT FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY
6 UNTIL THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY PROVIDES PROOF THAT THE LAW
7 ENFORCEMENT AGENCY HAS ISSUED REPLACEMENT PROTECTIVE BODY ARMOR
8 THAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.

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

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

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

16 4–101.

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

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

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

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

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