

HOUSE BILL 326

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By: Delegate Ebersole

Introduced and read first time: January 16, 2026

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Maryland Center for School Safety – Anonymous Reporting System**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Center for School Safety to develop and
4 administer an anonymous reporting system; requiring the Center to develop
5 operational guidelines and procedures for the anonymous reporting system and to
6 provide certain training; requiring each local school system to participate in the
7 anonymous reporting system, subject to a certain exception; requiring a certain
8 custodian of records to deny inspection of information and materials related to the
9 anonymous reporting system; and generally relating to the school safety anonymous
10 reporting system.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

12 Article – Education

13 Section 7–1502(g)

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

16 BY adding to

17 Article – Education

18 Section 7–1514

19 Annotated Code of Maryland

20 (2025 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

21 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

22 Article – General Provisions

23 Section 4–314.1(a)

24 Annotated Code of Maryland

25 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

27 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Article – Education

2 7–1502.

3 (g) The Center shall perform the following functions and duties:

4 (1) Provide technical assistance and consultation to local school systems,
5 State and local government, and community organizations on best practices for safe schools
6 and violence prevention;

7 (2) Develop a website containing a searchable database of definitive
8 research, books, videos, white papers, speakers, websites, and other school safety resources;

9 (3) Develop criteria that may be applied consistently and uniformly in local
10 school systems for coding unsafe incidents and serious or violent offenses;

11 (4) Research and recommend the use of common assessment tools to be
12 used to identify specific problems and needs of schools and neighborhoods to facilitate
13 intervention before assessed findings become problematic;

14 (5) Assist local school systems to conduct a thorough assessment of their
15 school safety data, school building layouts, and use of human resources for monitoring
16 purposes to determine the need for:

17 (i) Surveillance and other security technology; and

18 (ii) Innovations to maximize the use of human resources to monitor
19 activity and influence positive relationship building;

20 (6) Maintain and maximize relationships with emergency responders, law
21 enforcement personnel, parents, and other emergency preparedness stakeholders to ensure
22 seamless execution in an emergency event, including:

23 (i) Consolidate resources among stakeholders to maximize support
24 and secure necessary skills to ensure emergency plan implementation;

25 (ii) Conduct collaborative training and preparation exercises; and

26 (iii) Identify improvements and ensure nonduplication of effort in
27 emergency response procedures;

28 (7) Provide safety information on traveling to and from school to parents
29 and students twice a year that includes data related to bus and pedestrian safety, strategies
30 for ensuring personal safety, efforts of the local school system or school to improve safety,
31 and information on the available options for reporting incidents or concerns;

(8) Utilize and update an existing clearinghouse of law enforcement resources that are available to support school safety to ensure that it includes information regarding the purpose and process for accessing available funding;

(9) Assist local school systems to improve and monitor traffic control measures in the immediate vicinity of schools to reduce the potential for pedestrian and vehicle accidents;

(10) Assist the Department to evaluate and update current data systems to ensure they are best suited for providing useful information on school safety issues;

(11) Assist local school systems to monitor local school system and individual school behavior data to ensure fairness in the application of consequences for student misbehavior;

12 (12) Assist the Department and local school systems:

(ii) To incorporate new data points into existing data collection systems;

(15) Provide technical assistance to local school systems in the review of safety and security audits and the implementation of improvements in school facilities;

(16) Analyze data on school resource officers and develop guidelines and training for local school systems as required under § 7-1508 of this subtitle;

(17) Certify school safety coordinators as required under § 7-1508 of this subtitle;

(18) Submit to the General Assembly and the Governor a summary of reports on school resource officer and local law enforcement agency coverage in public schools as required under § 7-1508 of this subtitle;

(19) Consult with local school systems on safety evaluations developed under § 7-1510 of this subtitle;

(20) Review and comment on school emergency plans developed under § 7-1510 of this subtitle;

(21) Report to the General Assembly and the Governor on life-threatening incidents as required under § 7-1510 of this subtitle;

(22) Collaborate with an institution of higher education or a designated federal or national research entity to study the effectiveness and psychological impact of active shooter safety drills or trainings by researching and analyzing the data collected from local school systems in accordance with § 7-1509(f) of this subtitle;

(23) On or before October 1, 2024, identify best practices for active shooter safety drills or trainings, and periodically update those identifications using the data collected from local school systems in accordance with § 7-1509(f) of this subtitle; [and]

(24) Administer the Secure Schools Emergency Response Grant Program under § 7-1513 of this subtitle; AND

(25) DEVELOP AND ADMINISTER THE ANONYMOUS REPORTING SYSTEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7-1514 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

16 7-1514.

17 (A) (1) THE CENTER SHALL DEVELOP AND ADMINISTER AN ANONYMOUS
18 REPORTING SYSTEM.

(2) THE ANONYMOUS REPORTING SYSTEM SHALL:

26 (3) THE CENTER SHALL:

1 **(B) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION,**
2 **BEGINNING JULY 1, 2027, EACH LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM SHALL PARTICIPATE IN THE**
3 **ANONYMOUS REPORTING SYSTEM DEVELOPED UNDER THIS SECTION.**

4 **(2) (I) A LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM MAY CHOOSE NOT TO**
5 **PARTICIPATE IN THE ANONYMOUS REPORTING SYSTEM ONLY IF THE LOCAL SCHOOL**
6 **SYSTEM, ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2027, OPERATES AND MAKES AVAILABLE TO THE**
7 **PUBLIC A REPORTING SYSTEM THAT IS SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR TO THE**
8 **ANONYMOUS REPORTING SYSTEM DEVELOPED UNDER THIS SECTION.**

9 **(II) A LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM THAT CHOOSES NOT TO**
10 **PARTICIPATE IN THE ANONYMOUS REPORTING SYSTEM SHALL PROVIDE WRITTEN**
11 **NOTICE TO THE CENTER ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2026.**

12 **Article – General Provisions**

13 4–314.1.

14 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, a custodian shall deny
15 inspection of any record disclosing:

16 (1) a safety evaluation or school emergency plan developed under § 7–1510
17 of the Education Article;

18 (2) an emergency response policy developed under § 7–1509 of the
19 Education Article and § 3–520 of the Public Safety Article;

20 (3) guidelines for school resource officers and supplemental coverage by
21 local law enforcement agencies developed by the Maryland Center for School Safety under
22 § 7–1508 of the Education Article;

23 (4) a plan to implement the Maryland Center for School Safety's guidelines
24 adopted by a local school system under § 7–1508 of the Education Article; [or]

25 (5) any school mapping data produced under the School Mapping Data
26 Program in accordance with § 7–1510.1 of the Education Article; OR

27 **(6) INFORMATION AND MATERIALS RELATED TO THE ANONYMOUS**
28 **REPORTING SYSTEM DEVELOPED UNDER § 7–1514 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE.**

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
30 1, 2026.