

HOUSE BILL 177

E4

2lr0426

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Delegates Atterbeary and Wilson**

Requested: September 1, 2021

Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2022

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **9-1-1 Registry Program – Autism and Other Special Needs – Established**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the 9-1-1 Registry Program to alert certain first
4 responders of certain behaviors individuals with autism or other special needs may
5 exhibit during certain encounters with first responders; and generally relating to the
6 9-1-1 Registry Program.

7 BY adding to

8 Article – Public Safety

9 Section 1-304.4

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
13 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article – Public Safety**

15 **1-304.4.**

16 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
17 INDICATED.

18 (2) (I) “FIRST RESPONDER” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO
19 PROVIDES SERVICES THROUGH A 9-1-1 SYSTEM.

20 (II) “FIRST RESPONDER” INCLUDES AN INDIVIDUAL WHO
21 PROVIDES POLICE, FIRE FIGHTING, OR EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICES.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(3) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE 9-1-1 REGISTRY PROGRAM.**

2 **(B) THERE IS A 9-1-1 REGISTRY PROGRAM.**

3 **(C) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO AUTHORIZE SELF-ADVOCATES,**
4 **PARENTS, OR GUARDIANS OF INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM OR OTHER SPECIAL NEEDS**
5 **TO REGISTER WITH THE 9-1-1 SYSTEM IN ORDER TO ALERT FIRST RESPONDERS**
6 **ENCOUNTERING A REGISTERED INDIVIDUAL THAT THE INDIVIDUAL MAY EXHIBIT**
7 **CERTAIN BEHAVIORS, INCLUDING THAT THE INDIVIDUAL MAY BE:**

8 **(1) NONVERBAL;**

9 **(2) OVERSENSITIVE TO SIRENS;**

10 **(3) UNAWARE OF DANGER; OR**

11 **(4) PRONE TO ELOPE.**

12 **(D) TO ACCOMPLISH THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM, EACH PUBLIC**
13 **SAFETY ANSWERING POINT SHALL:**

14 **(1) ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR REGISTERING AN INDIVIDUAL WITH**
15 **AUTISM OR OTHER SPECIAL NEEDS;**

16 **(2) ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR ALERTING FIRST RESPONDERS OF**
17 **REGISTERED INDIVIDUALS PRIOR TO FIRST RESPONDERS ARRIVING AT THE**
18 **REGISTERED INDIVIDUAL'S ADDRESS AND DURING A TIME WHEN A REGISTERED**
19 **INDIVIDUAL IS STOPPED BY THE POLICE; AND**

20 **(3) ENSURE THAT THE DETAILS OF THE PROGRAM ARE PUBLICLY**
21 **AVAILABLE.**

22 **(E) EACH PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT SHALL CONTACT**
23 **REGISTRANTS ANNUALLY TO CONFIRM THAT THE INFORMATION ON THE**
24 **REGISTERED INDIVIDUAL IS CURRENT.**

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
26 October 1, 2022.