

# SENATE BILL 326

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By: **Senators Carozza, Watson, West, Klausmeier, and Hershey**

Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2024

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Juvenile Law – Questioning of a Juvenile – Crime of Violence or Crime**  
3 **Involving a Firearm**

4 FOR the purpose of providing that a law enforcement officer may conduct a certain  
5 interrogation of a child if probable cause exists for the law enforcement officer to  
6 believe that the child committed a certain crime of violence or a crime involving a  
7 firearm and the law enforcement officer has made a certain effort to give a certain  
8 notice to the child’s parent, guardian, or custodian; and generally relating to the  
9 interrogation of children by law enforcement.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
11 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings  
12 Section 3–8A–14.2  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

18 3–8A–14.2.

19 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

20 (2) “Custodial interrogation” retains its judicially determined meaning.

21 (3) **“FIREARM” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 4–204 OF THE**  
22 **CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1                   (4) (i) “Law enforcement officer” has the meaning stated in § 1–101 of  
2 the Public Safety Article.

3                               (ii) “Law enforcement officer” includes a school resource officer, as  
4 defined in § 7–1501 of the Education Article.

5           (b) A law enforcement officer may not conduct a custodial interrogation of a child  
6 until:

7                   (1) The child has consulted with an attorney who is:

8                               (i) Retained by the parent, guardian, or custodian of the child; or

9                               (ii) Provided by the Office of the Public Defender; and

10                   (2) The law enforcement officer has made an effort reasonably calculated  
11 to give actual notice to the parent, guardian, or custodian of the child that the child will be  
12 interrogated.

13           (c) A consultation with an attorney under this section:

14                   (1) Shall be:

15                               (i) Conducted in a manner consistent with the Maryland Rules of  
16 Professional Conduct; and

17                               (ii) Confidential; and

18                   (2) May be:

19                               (i) In person; or

20                               (ii) By telephone or video conference.

21           (d) To the extent practicable and consistent with the Maryland Rules of  
22 Professional Conduct, an attorney providing consultation under this section shall  
23 communicate and coordinate with the parent, guardian, or custodian of the child in custody.

24           (e) The requirement of consultation with an attorney under this section:

25                   (1) May not be waived; and

26                   (2) Applies regardless of whether the child is proceeded against as a child  
27 under this subtitle or is charged as an adult.

1 (f) (1) A law enforcement agency conducting an interrogation under this  
2 section shall maintain a record of the notification or attempted notification of a parent,  
3 guardian, or custodian under this section, including:

4 (i) A signed statement by a duly authorized law enforcement officer  
5 employed by the agency that an attempt to notify a parent, guardian, or custodian was  
6 made;

7 (ii) The name of the person sought to be notified; and

8 (iii) The method of attempted notification.

9 (2) (i) A law enforcement agency conducting an interrogation under  
10 this section shall maintain a record of the name of the attorney contacted and the county  
11 or counties in which the attorney provided the consultation.

12 (ii) An attorney contacted to provide legal consultation to a child  
13 under this subtitle shall provide to a law enforcement officer the information required for  
14 the record required to be maintained under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph.

15 (g) (1) Notwithstanding the requirements of this section, a law enforcement  
16 officer may conduct an otherwise lawful custodial interrogation of a child if:

17 (i) 1. The law enforcement officer reasonably believes that the  
18 information sought is necessary to protect against a threat to public safety; and

19 [(ii)] 2. The questions posed to the child by the law enforcement  
20 officer are limited to those questions reasonably necessary to obtain the information  
21 necessary to protect against the threat to public safety; OR

22 (II) 1. PROBABLE CAUSE EXISTS FOR THE LAW  
23 ENFORCEMENT OFFICER TO BELIEVE THE CHILD COMMITTED A CRIME OF  
24 VIOLENCE, AS DEFINED IN § 14–101 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE, OR A CRIME  
25 INVOLVING A FIREARM; AND

26 2. THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER HAS MADE AN  
27 EFFORT REASONABLY CALCULATED TO GIVE ACTUAL NOTICE TO THE PARENT,  
28 GUARDIAN, OR CUSTODIAN OF THE CHILD THAT THE CHILD WILL BE INTERROGATED.

29 (2) (i) Unless it is impossible, impracticable, or unsafe to do so, an  
30 interrogation conducted under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be recorded.

31 (ii) In a jurisdiction that has adopted the use of body–worn digital  
32 recording devices by law enforcement officers, the interrogation of a child may be recorded  
33 using a body–worn digital recording device in a manner that is consistent with  
34 departmental policies regarding the use of body–worn digital recording devices.

1 (iii) In a jurisdiction that has not adopted the use of body-worn  
2 digital recording devices, the interrogation of a child may be recorded using other video and  
3 audio recording technology in a manner that is consistent with any policies of the law  
4 enforcement agency regarding the use of video and audio recording technology.

5 (iv) A child being interrogated under this subsection shall be  
6 informed if the interrogation is being recorded.

7 (h) (1) There is a rebuttable presumption that a statement made by a child  
8 during a custodial interrogation is inadmissible in a delinquency proceeding or a criminal  
9 prosecution against that child if a law enforcement officer willfully failed to comply with  
10 the requirements of this section.

11 (2) The State may overcome the presumption by showing, by clear and  
12 convincing evidence, that the statement was made knowingly, intelligently, and  
13 voluntarily.

14 (3) This subsection may not be construed to render a statement by that  
15 child inadmissible in a proceeding against another individual.

16 (i) The Office of the Public Defender shall:

17 (1) Develop and implement policies to provide guidance and instruction to  
18 attorneys to meet the requirements of this section; and

19 (2) On or before October 1, 2022, publish on its website, or provide to law  
20 enforcement on request, information on attorneys available to act as counsel to a child in  
21 accordance with this section.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
23 October 1, 2024.