

Chapter 179

(Senate Bill 1077)

AN ACT concerning

**Public Schools – ~~Appropriations for School Safety Expenditures~~ –
School Security Employees – Appropriations**

FOR the purpose of ~~increasing certain~~ authorizing increases to certain annual appropriations for certain school safety expenditures beginning in certain fiscal years; ~~altering the allocation of certain funds to be based on student enrollment;~~ authorizing local school systems to use certain funds for school security employees; ~~requiring the Maryland Center for School Safety, the State Department of Education, the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center, and the Interagency Commission on School Construction jointly to review and provide guidance on the state of physical security in schools;~~ and generally relating to appropriations for school safety expenditures and school security employees.

BY renumbering

Article – Education
Section 7–1508(h)
to be Section 7–1508(i)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Education
Section 7–1501(k) and ~~7–1508(e)~~ 7–1508(e) and (g)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~

~~Article – Education
Section 7–1508(g) and 7–1510
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)~~

BY adding to

Article – Education
Section 7–1508(h)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section(s) 7–1508(h) of Article – Education of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 7–1508(i).

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Education

7–1501.

(k) “School security employee” means an individual, as defined in regulations adopted by the Subcabinet, who:

(1) Is not a school resource officer; and

(2) Is employed by a local school system to provide safety and security–related services at a public school.

7–1508.

(e) (1) Before the 2018–2019 school year begins, each local school system shall file a report with the Center identifying:

(i) The public high schools in the local school system’s jurisdiction that have a school resource officer assigned to the school; and

(ii) If a public high school in the local school system’s jurisdiction is not assigned a school resource officer, the adequate local law enforcement coverage that will be provided to the public high school.

(2) Beginning with the 2019–2020 school year, and each school year thereafter, before the school year begins, each local school system shall, in accordance with the plan developed under subsection (d)(2) of this section, file a report identifying:

(i) The public schools in the local school system’s jurisdiction that have a school resource officer assigned to the school; and

(ii) If a public school in the local school system’s jurisdiction is not assigned a school resource officer, the adequate local law enforcement coverage that will be provided to the public school.

(3) On or before October 1, 2018, and each October 1 thereafter, the Center shall submit a summary of the reports required under this subsection to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

(g) (1) ~~(f) [For] BEGINNING IN~~ fiscal year 2020 and ~~each~~ fiscal year thereafter, ~~ENDING IN FISCAL YEAR 2025~~, the Governor shall include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$10,000,000 to the Fund for the purpose of providing grants

to local school systems and local law enforcement agencies to assist in meeting the requirements of subsection (e) of this section.

~~(H) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026, THE GOVERNOR SHALL MAY INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF \$15,000,000 TO THE FUND FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING GRANTS TO LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO ASSIST IN MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTIONS (E) AND (H) OF THIS SECTION.~~

~~(H) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE GOVERNOR SHALL MAY INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF \$20,000,000 TO THE FUND FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING GRANTS TO LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO ASSIST IN MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTIONS (E) AND (H) OF THIS SECTION.~~

(2) Grants provided under this subsection shall be made to each local school system based on the number of ~~[schools]~~ ~~STUDENTS ENROLLED~~ in each school system in proportion to the total number of ~~[public schools]~~ ~~STUDENTS ENROLLED~~ in the State in the prior year.

(H) A LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM MAY USE FUNDS PROVIDED UNDER SUBSECTION (G) OF THIS SECTION FOR SCHOOL SECURITY EMPLOYEES.

~~7-1510.~~

~~(a) On or before June 15, 2019, and regularly thereafter, each local school system shall conduct a safety evaluation of each public school under the local school system's jurisdiction to:~~

~~(1) Identify and, if necessary, develop solutions for physical safety concerns, including issues with building security; and~~

~~(2) Identify and evaluate any patterns of safety concerns on school property or at school sponsored events.~~

~~(b) In performing the safety evaluations, each designated safety coordinator shall:~~

~~(1) Consult with the Center for guidance;~~

~~(2) Coordinate with the Interagency Commission on School Construction's facility assessment process, established under § 5-310 of this article in identifying issues with public school facilities that could impact school safety; and~~

~~(3) Submit a summary of the completed safety evaluations to the Center.~~

~~(c) On or before December 1, 2019, the Department, in consultation with the Center and local school systems, shall update the Emergency Planning Guidelines for Local School Systems and Schools to accommodate the findings made in the initial safety evaluations under subsection (a) of this section.~~

~~(d) On or before August 1, 2020, and regularly thereafter, each local school system shall update the school emergency plan for each public school in the school system's jurisdiction to:~~

~~(1) Include detailed plans for the manner in which each public school will address:~~

~~(i) Behavioral threats;~~

~~(ii) Emergency events; and~~

~~(iii) Accommodations for students with disabilities in emergency events;~~

~~(2) Conform with the Emergency Planning Guidelines updated under subsection (c) of this section; and~~

~~(3) Incorporate any changes required under subsection (f) of this section.~~

~~(e) Each local school system shall submit the plans updated under subsection (d) of this section to the Center for review and comment.~~

~~(f) (1) On or before August 1, 2020, and each August 1 thereafter, each local school system shall submit a report to the Center that includes, for the immediately preceding school year:~~

~~(i) Aggregate data about threats made against any school or school system facility;~~

~~(ii) Information about any school lockdowns, evacuations, or other emergency responses that occurred;~~

~~(iii) Incidents in which a public school's emergency plan failed in part or in whole to function as anticipated in an emergency or an emergency drill; and~~

~~(iv) School hours spent in an emergency or an emergency drill.~~

~~(2) Each local school system shall, in consultation with the Center, update each emergency plan to correct weaknesses identified under paragraph (1) of this~~

~~subsection AND TO IMPLEMENT THE GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBSECTION (H) OF THIS SECTION.~~

~~(g) (1) Each local school system shall promptly inform the Center of any critical, life-threatening incidents that occur on school grounds.~~

~~(2) (i) After informing the Center under this subsection, a local school system shall host an after-action review and evaluation of lessons learned from the event.~~

~~(ii) The local school system shall invite the Center, local law enforcement agencies, and emergency responders to participate in the after-action review and evaluation required under this paragraph.~~

~~(iii) A local school system shall file a report on the after-action review and evaluation with the Center.~~

~~(3) (i) The Center shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly within 45 days after a local school system has filed a report on the after-action review and evaluation under paragraph (2)(iii) of this subsection.~~

~~(ii) The Center shall include in the report filed under this paragraph:~~

- ~~1. Lessons learned from the life-threatening incident; and~~
- ~~2. Any recommendations for improving school safety.~~

~~(H) (1) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2025, AND EVERY 2 YEARS THEREAFTER, THE CENTER, THE DEPARTMENT, AND THE INTERAGENCY COMMISSION ON SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION, WITH INPUT FROM THE MARYLAND COORDINATION AND ANALYSIS CENTER'S MVIEW PROGRAM, JOINTLY SHALL REVIEW THE STATE OF PHYSICAL SECURITY IN SCHOOLS AND THE EXISTING GUIDELINES ON SCHOOL SAFETY.~~

~~(2) IN PERFORMING THEIR JOINT REVIEW, THE CENTER, THE DEPARTMENT, AND THE INTERAGENCY COMMISSION ON SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION SHALL MAKE USE OF THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM REPORTS REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (G)(1) AND (2) OF THIS SECTION.~~

~~(3) AFTER CONDUCTING THE JOINT REVIEW, THE CENTER, THE DEPARTMENT, THE MARYLAND COORDINATION AND ANALYSIS CENTER, AND THE INTERAGENCY COMMISSION ON SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION JOINTLY SHALL PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOL SECURITY DESIGNATED TO MAXIMIZE SCHOOL SAFETY AND MINIMIZE IMPEDIMENTS TO STUDENTS AND STAFF.~~

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

Approved by the Governor, April 25, 2024.