

HOUSE BILL 782

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5lr2969

By: ~~Delegate Atterbeary~~ Delegates Atterbeary, Ebersole, Fair, Griffith, Hornberger, R. Long, Miller, Mireku-North, Patterson, Roberts, Vogel, Wells, Wilkins, Wims, Wu, and Young

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2025

Assigned to: Ways and Means

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 4, 2025

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Study on Detecting Deadly Weapons in Public Middle and High Schools**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the ~~State Department of Education~~ Maryland Center for
4 School Safety to study how best to detect deadly weapons in public middle and high
5 schools and how best to rapidly report the detection of weapons to a law enforcement
6 agency; and generally relating to a study on detecting deadly weapons in public
7 middle and high schools.

8 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
9 That:

10 (a) The ~~State Department of Education~~ Maryland Center for School Safety shall
11 study how best to:

12 (1) detect deadly weapons on public middle and high school properties; and

13 (2) have schools rapidly report the detection of a deadly weapon to a law
14 enforcement agency.

15 (b) (1) The study required under this section shall include a comprehensive
16 ~~audit~~ evaluation of the current security infrastructure used in each public school system in
17 the State.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (2) The ~~audit~~ evaluation shall include ~~an evaluation of~~ meetings with
2 members of each local school system to assess:

3 (i) physical and technological security measures currently in use;
4 and

5 (ii) any gaps or areas that require improvement within the current
6 security system.

7 (3) The Center shall build on information collected as part of regular safety
8 evaluations and other reports collected under § 7-1510 of the Education Article in
9 conducting its evaluation.

10 (4) Information collected as part of an evaluation is not a public record and
11 shall be protected in the same manner as records covered by § 4-314.1 of the General
12 Provisions Article.

13 (c) The study shall, at minimum, include an evaluation of:

14 (1) ~~any widely accepted~~ available methods not currently used by the public
15 school systems in the State and the feasibility of using those methods to help fill gaps or
16 make improvements in the security system identified in the comprehensive ~~audit~~
17 evaluation;

18 (2) how the current security system could best be adapted to achieve better
19 detection of deadly weapons and quicker reporting to law enforcement agencies when
20 deadly weapons have been detected;

21 (3) ~~software that uses artificial intelligence to identify deadly weapons, and~~
22 ~~the necessary steps to ensure that the software works effectively, including integration~~
23 used for school safety and how it can best be integrated effectively with security cameras
24 and other currently used safety measures;

25 (4) an increased use of security cameras in public middle and high schools
26 and their ideal placement; and

27 (5) an increased use of metal detectors, including handheld metal
28 detectors, in public middle and high school entrances.

29 (d) (1) On or before December 1, 2025, in a manner that does not jeopardize
30 school safety, the ~~State Department of Education~~ Maryland Center for School Safety shall
31 issue an interim report, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, on
32 the findings of its study to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, the Senate
33 Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment, and the House Ways and Means
34 Committee.

1 (2) On or before December 1, 2026, in a manner that does not jeopardize
2 school safety, the Maryland Center for School Safety shall issue a final report, in accordance
3 with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, on the findings of its study to the President
4 of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and
5 the Environment, and the House Ways and Means Committee.

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
7 1, 2025. It shall remain effective for a period of ~~1 year~~ 2 years and 1 month and, at the end
8 of June 30, ~~2026~~ 2027, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly,
9 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.