

HOUSE BILL 782

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5lr2969

By: **Delegate Atterbeary**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2025

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

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 to study how best to
4 detect deadly weapons in public middle and high schools and how best to rapidly
5 report the detection of weapons to a law enforcement agency; and generally relating
6 to a study on detecting deadly weapons in public middle and high schools.

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

9 (a) The State Department of Education shall study how best to:

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

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

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

15 (2) The audit shall include an evaluation of:

16 (i) physical and technological security measures currently in use;
17 and

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

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

21 (1) any available methods not currently used by the public school systems

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 in the State and the feasibility of using those methods to help fill gaps or make
2 improvements in the security system identified in the comprehensive audit;

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

6 (3) software that uses artificial intelligence to identify deadly weapons, and
7 the necessary steps to ensure that the software works effectively, including integration with
8 security cameras and other currently used safety measures;

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

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

13 (d) On or before December 1, 2025, in a manner that does not jeopardize school
14 safety, the State Department of Education shall report, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the
15 State Government Article, on the findings of its study to the Speaker of the House and the
16 House Ways and Means Committee.

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
18 1, 2025. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June
19 30, 2026, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be
20 abrogated and of no further force and effect.