

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1304
Appropriations

(Delegate Wilson)

Department of Legislative Services - Data Collection - Violent Crimes

This bill requires the Department of State Police (DSP), by November 30 each year, to submit to the Department of Legislative Services (DLS), in electronic format, specified information collected through the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program. DSP must create a work plan that (1) improves and streamlines crime data collection and reporting with respect to the UCR program; (2) outlines policies and procedures to collect and measure hate incidents and hate crimes in a more efficient manner; and (3) creates procedures that allow victims to easily report and designate an incident as a suspected hate crime on the appropriate forms. DLS must report to the Governor and the General Assembly on (1) the information reported by DSP under the bill, by June 30, 2026, and each year thereafter and (2) the work plan required under the bill, by June 30, 2026. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by \$715,000 in FY 2026 for one-time programming costs for DSP to be able to collect the required information. Potential significant increase in State expenditures (multiple fund types) in FY 2026 for other State law enforcement agencies to update their report management systems, as discussed below. DLS can implement the bill with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: Potential significant increase in local law enforcement expenditures in FY 2026 to update their report management systems, as discussed below. Local revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: By November 30 each year, DSP must submit to DLS, in electronic format, information collected through the UCR program on criminal homicide, forcible rape, robbery, assault, breaking or entering, larceny or theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. The information required to be submitted must include the following information for each incident: (1) offense, including offense subtype; (2) date, county, zip code, and incident location; (3) whether an arrest was made; (4) whether an incident was designated a hate incident or hate crime; (5) age, race, ethnicity, and sex of victim; (6) age, race, ethnicity, and sex of offender; (7) law enforcement agencies involved; (8) case clearance status; and (9) if the offense is arson, type of property.

Current Law: Chapter 508 of 2022 requires the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services (DPSCS), DSP, the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (MPTSC), and the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP) to submit annually to DLS specified information relating to public safety and criminal justice.

Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services: By October 31 each year, DPSCS must submit to DLS, in the form of electronic raw data, specified information required to be reported in the department's annual report to the Governor.

Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission: By October 31 each year, MPTSC must submit to DLS, in the form of electronic raw data, specified information required to be reported relating to (1) use of force complaints made against law enforcement officers and (2) serious officer-involved incidents.

Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy: By October 31 each year, GOCPP must submit to DLS, in the form of electronic raw data, specified information relating to (1) use of force incidents involving police officers and (2) traffic stops.

Department of Juvenile Services: By August 1, 2022, the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) and DLS were required to enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for DJS to (1) provide various custom reports to DLS with specified information relating to a juvenile's record and (2) develop a work plan regarding efforts to include specific race and ethnicity data for individual juveniles.

Department of State Police: By November 30 each year, DSP must submit to DLS, in a format that the Executive Director of Legislative Services requires, specified information relating to law enforcement employees.

By August 1, 2022, DSP and DLS were required to enter into an MOU regarding (1) a data sharing agreement for all information collected relating to law enforcement employees, as specified; (2) a work plan for access to collected data for research and statistical analysis purposes; (3) a listing of all data fields collected for the *Crime in Maryland Report* and the *Hate Bias Report*; and (4) an update on the status of compliance with the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) by law enforcement agencies in the State.

State/Local Expenditures: DSP advises that the department and 128 law enforcement agencies (both State and local) recently purchased and updated their report management systems to meet federal requirements for NIBRS. All agency systems have been NIBRS certified or are in the final process for NIBRS certification. NIBRS and UCR do not require the collection of zip code, incident location, or ethnicity data; thus, DSP and other law enforcement agencies in the State do not collect that information. In order to collect zip code and incident location data, DSP and other State and local law enforcement agencies must update their report management systems. However, DSP reports that, even with system updates, law enforcement agencies will not be able to collect ethnicity data, as that information is only available through self-reporting, and many victims may not be able to (or may be unwilling to) provide the information.

As a result, general fund expenditures for DSP increase by \$715,000 in fiscal 2026 for one-time costs to update its report management system to collect zip code and incident location information so that it can submit it to DLS as required by the bill. The bill's other requirements are not anticipated to materially affect DSP finances.

State expenditures (multiple fund types) and local government expenditures likely increase significantly in fiscal 2026 for other law enforcement agencies to update their report management systems in order to collect the required zip code and incident location information to be able to provide it to DSP.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of State Police; Department of Legislative Services

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