

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 1116
Judiciary

(Delegate Healey)

Judicial Proceedings

Public Safety - State Clearinghouse for Missing Persons

This bill renames the State Clearinghouse for Missing Children to be the State Clearinghouse for Missing Persons and transfers its statutory provisions from the Family Law Article to the Public Safety Article. The bill further establishes that the duties of the State Clearinghouse for Missing Persons include (1) the receipt, collection, and distribution of general information and annual statistics regarding missing persons and (2) coordination of law enforcement agencies and other interested persons or groups within and outside the State regarding information on persons who have disappeared from, or are thought to be located in, the State. Other conforming changes are made to reflect the expansion of the clearinghouse to include all missing persons.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's changes can be handled with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: The bill's changes can be handled with existing local resources. Local revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The State Clearinghouse for Missing Children, operated by the Department of State Police, is responsible for (1) the receipt, collection, and distribution of general information and annual statistics regarding missing children and (2) coordination of law enforcement agencies and other interested persons or groups within and outside the

State regarding information on children who have disappeared from, or are thought to be located in, the State.

For children who have disappeared from or are thought to be located in the State, the State Clearinghouse for Missing Children (1) must publish the names of and relevant available information on missing children and annual statistics regarding missing children and (2) may establish and maintain a list of organizations and groups that provide volunteer search teams or resources relating to missing children. The Secretary of State Police may develop, in cooperation with local law enforcement agencies, a plan for voluntary fingerprinting programs for children.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County; City of Annapolis; Maryland Municipal League; Department of Natural Resources; Department of State Police; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 14, 2025
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