

SENATE BILL 127

F1, E4, F2

4lr1317

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Senators Watson, Carozza, and Muse**

Requested: October 31, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment and Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Center for School Safety – Firearm Detection Platforms – Evaluation**
3 **(Maryland Firearm Detection Platform Act)**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Center for School Safety, in collaboration with
5 certain public safety and educational institutions, to conduct an evaluation of
6 firearm detection platforms; authorizing funds from the Safe Schools Fund to be used
7 to assist local school systems in the procurement and maintenance of firearm
8 detection platforms; and generally relating to the Maryland Center for School Safety
9 and firearm detection platforms.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Education
12 Section 7–1501
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)
15 (As enacted by Chapter 59 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2021)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
17 Article – Education
18 Section 7–1512(a)
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

21 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
22 Article – Education
23 Section 7–1512(f)(9) and (10)
24 Annotated Code of Maryland
25 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

26 BY adding to

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Article – Education
2 Section 7–1512(f)(11)
3 Annotated Code of Maryland
4 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

5 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
6 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

7 **Article – Education**

8 7–1501.

9 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

10 (b) “Advisory Board” means the School Safety Subcabinet Advisory Board.

11 (c) (1) “Behaviors of concern” means behaviors or threats that indicate a
12 student may pose a risk of self–harm or harm to others.

13 (2) “Behaviors of concern” includes:

14 (i) Expressions of hopelessness;

15 (ii) Known drug use;

16 (iii) Suicidal gestures or statements; and

17 (iv) Known gang activity.

18 (d) “Center” means the Maryland Center for School Safety.

19 (e) “Drill” means a formalized exercise by which school system personnel, staff,
20 or students rehearse a school emergency plan.

21 (f) **“FIREARM DETECTION PLATFORM” MEANS ANY TECHNOLOGY**
22 **PLATFORM OR SYSTEM THAT USES ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND OTHER**
23 **VALIDATION MECHANISMS TO:**

24 **(1) ANALYZE VIDEO STREAMS FROM SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS IN**
25 **REAL TIME FOR THE DETECTION OF FIREARMS; AND**

26 **(2) PROACTIVELY NOTIFY LAW ENFORCEMENT AND OTHER PUBLIC**
27 **SAFETY AUTHORITIES.**

28 (G) “Fund” means the Safe Schools Fund.

1 **[(g)] (H)** “Local law enforcement agency” means:

2 (1) A police department of a county or municipal corporation in the State;
3 or

4 (2) A sheriff’s office that provides a law enforcement function in a county
5 or municipal corporation in the State.

6 **[(h)] (I)** “Safety evaluation” means a written assessment of the safety conditions
7 in each public school, including ingress, egress, and access to areas of refuge for all
8 students.

9 **[(i)] (J)** “School emergency plan” means a plan for each local school system and
10 each public school within the school system that addresses mitigation of, preparedness for,
11 response to, and recovery from emergencies, including:

12 (1) Violent or traumatic events on school grounds during regular school
13 hours or during school–sponsored activities; and

14 (2) Events in the community that affect school operations.

15 **[(j)] (K)** “School resource officer” means:

16 (1) A law enforcement officer as defined under § 1–101(c) of the Public
17 Safety Article who has been assigned to a school in accordance with a memorandum of
18 understanding between the chief of a law enforcement agency as defined under § 3–201(d)
19 of the Public Safety Article and the local education agency; or

20 (2) A Baltimore City school police officer, as defined in § 4–318 of this
21 article.

22 **[(k)] (L)** “School security employee” means an individual, as defined in
23 regulations adopted by the Subcabinet, who:

24 (1) Is not a school resource officer; and

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

27 **[(l)] (M)** “Subcabinet” means the School Safety Subcabinet.

28 **[(m)] (N)** “Wraparound services” means services provided to students, and their
29 families as appropriate, including:

30 (1) Mentoring;

- 1 (2) Tutoring;
- 2 (3) Child care services;
- 3 (4) Housing referrals;
- 4 (5) Transportation;
- 5 (6) Crisis intervention;
- 6 (7) Substance abuse prevention and treatment;
- 7 (8) Legal aid;
- 8 (9) Academic counseling; and
- 9 (10) Career counseling.

10 7–1512.

11 (a) There is a Safe Schools Fund.

12 (f) Except as provided in subsection (g) of this section, the Fund may be used only
13 to provide grants to local school systems to enhance school safety, including:

14 (9) Providing information to students and parents on traveling safely to
15 and from school, including data related to bus and pedestrian safety, strategies for ensuring
16 personal safety, efforts of the local school system to improve safety, and information on
17 available options for reporting incidents and concerns; **[and]**

18 (10) Assisting local school systems to improve and monitor traffic control
19 measures in the immediate vicinity of schools to reduce the potential for pedestrian and
20 vehicle accidents; **AND**

21 **(11) ASSISTING LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS IN PROCURING AND**
22 **MAINTAINING FIREARM DETECTION PLATFORMS ASSESSED BY THE CENTER FOR**
23 **USE ON PUBLIC SCHOOL PROPERTY.**

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

25 (a) In this section, “firearm detection platform” means any technology platform
26 or system that uses artificial intelligence and other validation mechanisms to:

27 (1) analyze video streams from surveillance cameras in real time for the
28 detection of firearms; and

1 (2) proactively notify law enforcement and other public safety authorities.

2 (b) The Maryland Center for School Safety, in collaboration with public safety
3 agencies, the State Department of Education, local school systems, the University System
4 of Maryland, and other public institutions of higher education in the State, shall conduct
5 an evaluation of firearm detection platforms to assess:

6 (1) the capabilities of the firearm detection platform, including:

7 (i) the platform's effectiveness in real-time firearm detection,
8 avoiding false positives, and timely notification of law enforcement personnel;

9 (ii) whether the platform contains control mechanisms to reduce
10 false positives, which may include the use of drone technology or manual validation of
11 flagged video clips;

12 (iii) the ability to integrate with building floor plan mapping tools to
13 increase law enforcement response times during emergencies; and

14 (iv) whether the platform utilizes cloud-based storage for flagged
15 video clips to aid law enforcement investigations;

16 (2) federal certifications, if any;

17 (3) the platform's cost and maintenance requirements, including data
18 security;

19 (4) documented examples of performance in similar locations at which the
20 platform would be used; and

21 (5) the platform's ability to adequately meet the needs of local school
22 systems and public institutions of higher education.

23 (c) On or before April 30, 2025, the Maryland Center for School Safety shall
24 submit to the State Department of Education, each county board of education, the
25 University System of Maryland, Morgan State University, and St. Mary's College of
26 Maryland a report on the result of the evaluation required under this section, including
27 recommendations on specific firearm detection platforms.

28 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
29 1, 2024.