

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND**  
**2024 Legislative Session**

Bill No. CB-009-2024  
 Chapter No. 13  
 Proposed and Presented by Council Members Oriadha and Olson  
 Introduced by Council Members Oriadha and Olson  
 Co-Sponsors \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Introduction April 23, 2024

**BILL**

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Emergency 9-1-1 Voluntary Call Registry

3 For the purpose of establishing the voluntary registry for emergency 9–1–1 calls, known as the  
 4 Emergency 9-1-1 Voluntary Call Registry, to alert certain first responders of certain behaviors,  
 5 diagnoses, or traits of individuals with special needs that may be present during certain  
 6 encounters with first responders.

7 BY repealing and reenacting with amendments:

8 SUBTITLE 6. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

9 Sections 6-145 through 6-148

10 The Prince George's County Code

11 (2023 Edition).

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County,  
 13 Maryland, that Sections 6-145 through 6-148 of the Prince George's County Code be and the  
 14 same are hereby added:

15 **SUBTITLE 6. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.**

16 **DIVISION 7. OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS.**

17 **Sec. 6-145. Office of Public Safety Communications**

18 Pursuant to the Charter, within the Office of Homeland Security, there shall be an Office of  
 19 Public Safety Communication responsible for the management of an integrated public safety and  
 20 emergency communication system.

21 **Sec. 6-145. Definitions.**

In this Division the following words and terms shall have the following meanings:

- (a) **Department** means the Prince George's County Office of Public Safety Communication.
- (b) **First Responder** means an individual dispatched to assist a member of the public through a 9-1-1 system subject to Sec. 6-148. It includes an individual who provides the Police Department, Fire/EMS, Mobile Crisis Response, Sheriff Department, and Municipalities with information about another individual regarding certain behaviors, diagnoses, or traits of individuals with special needs.
- (c) **9-1-1 Specialist** means an employee of a County public safety answering point whose duties and responsibilities include: receiving and processing 911 requests for emergency services or dispatching law enforcement officers, fire rescue services, emergency medical services, and other public safety services to the scene of an emergency.

**Sec. 6-146. Established.**

- (a) The Department shall maintain an Emergency 9-1-1 Voluntary Call Registry that enables an adult, parent, or guardian of a minor child, or individual with guardianship of the person to provide information to the Department via the registry to alert First Responder(s) encountering a registered individual that the individual:

- (1) May exhibit certain behaviors, including that the individual may be:

- (A) Nonspeaking or the user of a communication device,
- (B) Sensitive to loud sounds,
- (C) Sensitive to bright lights,
- (D) Sensitive to touch,
- (E) Delayed with response times,
- (F) Prone to avoid eye contact,
- (G) Unaware of danger, or
- (H) Prone to wander or elope, or

- (2) Has one or more of the following diagnoses or traits:

- (A) Blind or low vision;
- (B) Deaf or hard of hearing;
- (C) Wheelchair user;
- (D) Alzheimer's or dementia;

1 (E) Autism;

2 (F) Mental health disability;

3 (G) Intellectual disability;

4 (H) Physical disability; or

5 (I) Developmental disability.

6 (b) Participation in the Emergency 9-1-1 Voluntary Call Registry program under this  
 7 Division does not create a private cause of action.

8 (c) The Department shall provide information to the public about the program and inform  
 9 the public about how to register for the program.

10 (1) A registrant may opt-into the program at any time.

11 (2) Annual notifications will be sent to all active registrants on October 1<sup>st</sup>,  
 12 November 1<sup>st</sup>, and December 1<sup>st</sup> for the purpose of confirming continued  
 13 participation.

14 (3) Any registrant that fails to confirm continued participation on or before December  
 15 31<sup>st</sup> of each year, shall be automatically deleted from the registry as of January 1<sup>st</sup>.

16 (4) It is the responsibility of the registrant to ensure the information provided in the  
 17 registry is up to date and accurate.

18 (5) One residential address is required to participate in the registry.

19 (6) The Department shall provide information to the public about how to opt out of  
 20 the program.

21 (d) Any adult, parent, guardian of a minor child, or individual with guardianship of the  
 22 person who provides information for the registry shall use the form provided by the  
 23 Department, certify to the accuracy of the information provided, and agree to notify the  
 24 Department of any changes using the form provided by the Department.

25 **Sec. 6-147 Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Provision for the**  
 26 **Emergency 9-1-1 Voluntary Call Registry**

27 Participation in the Emergency 9-1-1 Voluntary Call Registry is entirely voluntary and  
 28 requires the authorization of the registrant to provide health information about an individual  
 29 with certain behaviors, diagnoses, or traits of special needs.

30 All information provided by registrants for inclusion in the 9-1-1 registry shall be treated as  
 31 confidential and protected health information (PHI) under HIPAA regulations. The information

1 stored in the registry shall only be accessed and utilized for the purpose of providing timely and  
 2 appropriate emergency medical care or assistance during emergency situations. Any other use or  
 3 disclosure of this information is strictly prohibited except as otherwise required by law. By  
 4 participating in the registry, registrants acknowledge and consent to the collection and use of the  
 5 health information provided as outlined in this provision, in accordance with HIPAA regulations.

6 **Sec. 6-148. Exceptions.**

7 The Office of Public Safety Communication is not responsible for the management of an  
 8 integrated public safety and emergency communication system for the following entities with  
 9 jurisdiction within the County:

- 10 (a) Maryland State Police;
- 11 (b) Maryland Park Police;
- 12 (c) Bladensburg;
- 13 (d) Bowie;
- 14 (e) Greenbelt;
- 15 (f) Hyattsville;
- 16 (g) Laurel; or
- 17 (h) Riverdale Park.

18 SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the provisions of this Act are hereby  
 19 declared to be severable; and, in the event that any section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph,  
 20 sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional by a court of  
 21 competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the remaining  
 22 words, phrases, clauses, sentences, subparagraphs, paragraphs, subsections, or sections of this  
 23 Act, since the same would have been enacted without the incorporation in this Act of any such  
 24 invalid or unconstitutional word, phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, subparagraph, subsection,  
 25 or section.

26 SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that any previously existing obligations or  
 27 contract rights may not be impaired by this Act.

28 SECTION 4. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the Office of Public Safety  
 29 Communications shall have until July 1, 2024 to implement the provisions of this Act.

30 SECTION 5. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Act shall take effect on forty-five (45)  
 31 calendar days after it becomes law.  
 32

Adopted this 4<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE  
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jolene Ivey  
Chair

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Donna J. Brown  
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Angela D. Alsobrooks  
County Executive

KEY:

Underscoring indicates language added to existing law.

[Brackets] indicate language deleted from existing law.

Asterisks \*\*\* indicate intervening existing Code provisions that remain unchanged.

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