

HOUSE BILL 912

E4
HB 1045/23 – JUD

4lr2855

By: **Delegate Young**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2024

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety – Safe Neighborhoods Pilot Program**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim
4 Services to establish a Safe Neighborhoods Pilot Program to provide doorbell
5 cameras or security systems with doorbell cameras to residents of high-crime areas;
6 and generally relating to the Safe Neighborhoods Pilot Program.

7 BY adding to

8 Article – Public Safety

9 Section 4–1701 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 17. Safe Neighborhoods Pilot
10 Program”

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Public Safety**

16 **SUBTITLE 17. SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS PILOT PROGRAM.**

17 **4–1701.**

18 **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
19 **INDICATED.**

20 **(2) “HOME” MEANS A SINGLE-FAMILY DWELLING, SEMIDETACHED**
21 **DWELLING, MULTIFAMILY DWELLING, OR TOWNHOME.**

22 **(3) “OFFICE” MEANS THE GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF CRIME**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **PREVENTION, YOUTH, AND VICTIM SERVICES.**

2 (4) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS PILOT
3 PROGRAM.

4 (5) "RESIDENT" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO RESIDES IN A HOME IN A
5 DESIGNATED HIGH-CRIME AREA.

6 (B) THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION, YOUTH, AND
7 VICTIM SERVICES SHALL ESTABLISH A SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS PILOT PROGRAM
8 TO:

9 (1) PURCHASE DOORBELL CAMERAS OR SECURITY SYSTEMS WITH
10 DOORBELL CAMERAS AND INSTALL THE CAMERAS OR SYSTEMS IN THE HOMES OF
11 RESIDENTS WHO APPLY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM;

12 (2) ENGAGE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND RESIDENTS TO
13 PROMOTE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM;

14 (3) PROVIDE TRAINING FOR RESIDENTS ON THE USE OF A DOORBELL
15 CAMERA OR SECURITY SYSTEM WITH A DOORBELL CAMERA, INCLUDING HOW TO
16 ACCESS VIDEO PRODUCED BY THE CAMERA;

17 (4) ESTABLISH A PROCESS FOR RESIDENTS TO CONTACT LAW
18 ENFORCEMENT IN ORDER TO SUBMIT VIDEO OBTAINED BY A DOORBELL CAMERA AS
19 EVIDENCE; AND

20 (5) PROVIDE INFORMATION TO RESIDENTS ON THE PROCESS FOR THE
21 SUBMISSION OF VIDEO CAPTURED BY A DOORBELL CAMERA TO LAW ENFORCEMENT.

22 (C) THE OFFICE, IN COORDINATION WITH LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
23 AGENCIES, SHALL:

24 (1) IDENTIFY HIGH-CRIME AREAS WITHIN LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN
25 THE STATE;

26 (2) ESTABLISH A PROCESS FOR RESIDENTS OF HIGH-CRIME AREAS
27 IDENTIFIED BY THE OFFICE TO APPLY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM; AND

28 (3) FACILITATE TRAINING FOR RESIDENTS ON THE USE OF DOORBELL
29 CAMERAS AND SECURITY SYSTEMS WITH DOORBELL CAMERAS.

30 (D) (1) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2026, THE OFFICE SHALL REPORT

1 TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE
2 GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON:

3 (I) THE CRIME RATE WITHIN THE IDENTIFIED HIGH-CRIME
4 AREAS FOLLOWING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM;

5 (II) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CRIMES SOLVED WITH THE AID OF
6 EVIDENCE OBTAINED BY CAMERAS PROVIDED THROUGH THE PROGRAM;

7 (III) THE SENSE OF SECURITY AMONG RESIDENT PARTICIPANTS
8 OF THE PROGRAM;

9 (IV) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROGRAM;
10 AND

11 (V) THE USEFULNESS AND VIABILITY OF THE PROGRAM BASED
12 ON A COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS.

13 (2) THE OFFICE SHALL PUBLICLY POST THE REPORT REQUIRED
14 UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION ON ITS WEBSITE.

15 (E) THE OFFICE SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THIS
16 SECTION, INCLUDING REGULATIONS THAT:

17 (1) ENSURE THAT A DOORBELL CAMERA OR SECURITY SYSTEM WITH
18 A DOORBELL CAMERA THAT IS PROVIDED TO A RESIDENT OF A HIGH-CRIME AREA
19 INCLUDES 2 YEARS OF SERVICE AT NO COST TO THE RESIDENT;

20 (2) PROHIBIT A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY FROM COMPELLING A
21 RESIDENT TO SHARE FOOTAGE OBTAINED BY A DOORBELL CAMERA OR SECURITY
22 SYSTEM WITH A DOORBELL CAMERA PROVIDED THROUGH THE PROGRAM; AND

23 (3) INCLUDE MEASURES THAT PROTECT THE PRIVACY OF RESIDENTS
24 AND ENSURE THAT ANY DATA COLLECTED IS SECURELY STORED AND PROTECTED
25 FROM UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS OR BREACHES.

26 (F) BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2026 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER,
27 THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION
28 OF \$5,000,000 FOR THE PROGRAM TO BE USED ONLY TO:

29 (1) CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES OF THE PROGRAM; AND

30 (2) COVER EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE OFFICE THAT ARE

1 **ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING PERSONNEL HIRED BY THE OFFICE**
2 **AND ASSIGNED TO THE PROGRAM.**

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
4 October 1, 2024. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of September
5 30, 2027, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be
6 abrogated and of no further force and effect.