

HOUSE BILL 240

D1
HB 978/24 – JUD

(PRE-FILED)

5lr1660

By: **Delegate Young**

Requested: November 1, 2024

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Courts – Maryland Judicial Public Text Messaging System – Report**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Administrative Office of the Courts to provide an annual
4 report to the General Assembly containing certain information on the Maryland
5 Judicial Public Text Messaging System; and generally relating to the Maryland
6 Judicial Public Text Messaging System.

7 BY adding to

8 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

9 Section 13–103

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

15 **13–103.**

16 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
17 INDICATED.

18 (2) “MARYLAND JUDICIAL PUBLIC TEXT MESSAGING SYSTEM”
19 MEANS TEXT NOTIFICATION ABOUT COURT EVENTS AND RELATED CASE
20 INFORMATION PERMANENTLY AUTHORIZED UNDER THE ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
21 OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF MARYLAND ON APRIL 22,
22 2020.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(3) "SYSTEM" MEANS THE MARYLAND JUDICIAL PUBLIC TEXT MESSAGING SYSTEM.

(B) BEGINNING DECEMBER 1, 2025, AND EACH DECEMBER 1 THEREAFTER, THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS SHALL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON THE MARYLAND JUDICIAL PUBLIC TEXT MESSAGING SYSTEM.

(C) THE REPORT SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON THE SYSTEM FOR THE PRIOR FISCAL YEAR:

(1) THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS WHO REQUESTED NOTIFICATION UNDER THE SYSTEM;

(2) THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS WHO DECLINED TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATION;

(3) THE TOTAL NUMBER OF NOTIFICATIONS SENT REGARDING PROCEEDINGS;

(4) THE NUMBER OF NOTIFICATIONS SENT AT LEAST 7 DAYS BEFORE A PROCEEDING;

(5) THE NUMBER OF NOTIFICATIONS SENT 6 OR FEWER DAYS BEFORE A PROCEEDING AND THE NUMBER OF THOSE NOTIFICATIONS SENT AT LEAST 1 DAY BEFORE A PROCEEDING;

(6) THE NUMBER OF NOTIFICATIONS THAT FAILED TO DELIVER;

(7) THE NUMBER OF REQUESTS BY PARTICIPANTS FOR ASSISTANCE;
AND

(8) THE RATE OF FAILURE TO APPEAR BY PARTICIPANTS IN THE SYSTEM COMPARED WITH THAT OF INDIVIDUALS DECLINING PARTICIPATION IN THE SYSTEM.

(D) IN ADDITION TO INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, THE REPORT SHALL INCLUDE A REVIEW OF ANY FUTURE PLANS FOR DEVELOPMENT, EXPANSION, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SYSTEM.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2025.