

HOUSE BILL 283

E4
HB 912/24 – JUD

(PRE-FILED)

5lr1657

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

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

7 BY adding to

8 Article – Public Safety

9 Section 4–1801 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 18. Safe Neighborhoods Pilot
10 Program”

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 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 18. SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS PILOT PROGRAM.**

17 **4–1801.**

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.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(3) “OFFICE” MEANS THE GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION AND POLICY.

(4) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS PILOT PROGRAM.

(5) “RESIDENT” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO RESIDES IN A HOME IN A DESIGNATED HIGH–CRIME AREA.

(B) THE GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION AND POLICY SHALL ESTABLISH A SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS PILOT PROGRAM TO:

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

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

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

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

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

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

(1) IDENTIFY HIGH–CRIME AREAS WITHIN LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN THE STATE;

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

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

(D) (1) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2027, 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 2027 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, 2025. It shall remain effective for a period of 3 years and, at the end of September
5 30, 2028, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be
6 abrogated and of no further force and effect.