

HOUSE BILL 1012

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6lr2243

By: ~~Delegate Fair~~ Delegates Fair, Alston, Bagnall, Cullison, Guzzone, Hill, S. Johnson, Kaufman, Lopez, Martinez, Rosenberg, Ross, Taveras, White Holland, and Woorman

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Health

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 26, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Health – Local Suicide Fatality Review Teams – Authorization**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing a county or municipality to establish a local suicide fatality
4 review team; requiring a local team to coordinate with certain local child fatality
5 review teams and the State Suicide Fatality Review Committee; exempting certain
6 meetings of a local team from the Open Meetings Act; providing certain immunity
7 for certain actions taken by a person as a member of a local team; authorizing a local
8 team to request and receive certain information under certain authority;
9 establishing that a local team is a public health authority conducting certain
10 activities in accordance with a certain federal law; providing that certain information
11 acquired by a local team is confidential and exempt from disclosure under the
12 Maryland Public Information Act, discovery, or introduction as evidence in any
13 proceeding; prohibiting certain persons from testifying in any proceeding about
14 details of a local team meeting; and generally relating to local suicide fatality review
15 teams.

16 BY adding to

17 Article – Health – General

18 Section 5–1101 through ~~5–1105~~ 5–1110 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 11.

19 Local Suicide Fatality Review Teams”

20 Annotated Code of Maryland

21 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

3 **Article – Health – General**

4 **SUBTITLE 11. LOCAL SUICIDE FATALITY REVIEW TEAMS.**

5 **5-1101.**

6 **(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE, ~~“LOCAL”~~ THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE**
7 **MEANINGS INDICATED.**

8 **(B) “LOCAL TEAM” MEANS A MULTIDISCIPLINARY AND MULTIAGENCY**
9 **SUICIDE FATALITY REVIEW TEAM ESTABLISHED UNDER ~~§ 5-1102~~ § 5-1103 OF THIS**
10 **SUBTITLE.**

11 **(C) “STATE TEAM” MEANS THE MARYLAND SUICIDE FATALITY REVIEW**
12 **COMMITTEE.**

13 **15-1102.**

14 **THIS SUBTITLE MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO SUPERSEDE, LIMIT, INTERFERE**
15 **WITH, OR OTHERWISE AFFECT THE AUTHORITY OR DUTIES OF A LOCAL CHILD**
16 **FATALITY REVIEW TEAM UNDER SUBTITLE 7 OF THIS TITLE.**

17 **~~5-1102.~~ 5-1103.**

18 **(A) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A COUNTY OR**
19 **MUNICIPALITY MAY ESTABLISH A MULTIDISCIPLINARY AND MULTIAGENCY SUICIDE**
20 **FATALITY REVIEW TEAM.**

21 **(B) TWO OR MORE COUNTIES MAY ESTABLISH A SINGLE MULTICOUNTY**
22 **LOCAL TEAM.**

23 **(C) A MULTICOUNTY LOCAL TEAM SHALL EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF**
24 **UNDERSTANDING ON MEMBERSHIP, STAFFING, AND OPERATION.**

25 **(D) THE LOCAL TEAM MEMBERSHIP SHALL BE DRAWN, IF AVAILABLE, FROM**
26 **THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS, AGENCIES, AND AREAS OF**
27 **EXPERTISE:**

28 **(1) THE COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER, OR THE OFFICER’S DESIGNEE;**

1 **(2) THE DIRECTOR OF THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL**
2 **SERVICES, OR THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;**

3 **(3) THE DIRECTOR OF THE LOCAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AUTHORITY**
4 **OR THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;**

5 **(4) THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS FOR THE COUNTY, OR THE**
6 **SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEE;**

7 **(5) A STATE, COUNTY, OR MUNICIPAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER;**

8 **(6) THE DIRECTOR OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES IN THE**
9 **COUNTY, OR THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE;**

10 **(7) AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PROVIDER IN THE COUNTY;**

11 **(8) A REPRESENTATIVE OF A HOSPITAL;**

12 **(9) A HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL WHO SPECIALIZES IN THE**
13 **PREVENTION, DIAGNOSIS, AND TREATMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH OR BEHAVIORAL**
14 **HEALTH CONDITIONS;**

15 **(10) A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC WITH INTEREST OR EXPERTISE IN**
16 **SUICIDE PREVENTION, APPOINTED BY THE COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER; AND**

17 **(11) ANY OTHER INDIVIDUAL NECESSARY FOR THE WORK OF THE**
18 **LOCAL TEAM, RECOMMENDED BY THE LOCAL TEAM AND APPOINTED BY THE COUNTY**
19 **HEALTH OFFICER.**

20 **(E) EACH LOCAL TEAM SHALL ELECT A CHAIR FROM AMONG ITS MEMBERS.**

21 **(F) EACH LOCAL TEAM SHALL:**

22 **(1) MEET AT LEAST QUARTERLY TO:**

23 **(i) REVIEW THE STATUS OF SUICIDE FATALITY CASES;**

24 **(ii) RECOMMEND ACTIONS TO IMPROVE THE COORDINATION OF**
25 **SERVICES AND INVESTIGATIONS AMONG AGENCIES; AND**

26 **(iii) RECOMMEND ACTIONS TO RELEVANT AGENCIES TO**
27 **PREVENT SUICIDE DEATHS;**

1 **(2) COLLECT AND MAINTAIN DATA AS REQUIRED BY THE STATE**
2 **TEAM;**

3 **(3) ENSURE SAFE AND SECURE STORAGE FOR PROTECTED**
4 **INFORMATION AND RECORDS HELD BY THE LOCAL TEAM;**

5 **(4) PROVIDE ANY REPORTS REQUIRED BY THE STATE TEAM,**
6 **INCLUDING:**

7 **(I) REPORTS ON INDIVIDUAL CASES;**

8 **(II) STEPS TAKEN TO IMPROVE COORDINATION OF SERVICES**
9 **AND INVESTIGATIONS AMONG AGENCIES;**

10 **(III) STEPS TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF**
11 **LOCAL TEAMS BY APPLICABLE AGENCIES; AND**

12 **(IV) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGES TO STATE AND LOCAL**
13 **LAW, POLICY, AND PRACTICES DESIGNED TO PREVENT SUICIDE DEATHS;**

14 **(5) SUBJECT TO § 5-1104(C) OF THIS SUBTITLE, COORDINATE WITH**
15 **LOCAL CHILD FATALITY REVIEW TEAMS, AND LOCAL DRUG OVERDOSE FATALITY**
16 **REVIEW TEAMS TO ENSURE THE EFFICIENCY OF EACH LOCAL TEAM'S OPERATIONS;**

17 **(6) COORDINATE WITH THE STATE SUICIDE FATALITY REVIEW**
18 **COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBTITLE 10 OF THIS TITLE, INCLUDING TO**
19 **ESTABLISH OPERATING PROTOCOLS; AND**

20 ~~(2)~~ **(7) OPERATE SUBJECT TO STATE AND NATIONAL STANDARDS,**
21 **AND SUBJECT TO GUIDANCE ISSUED BY THE STATE SUICIDE FATALITY REVIEW**
22 **COMMITTEE.**

23 ~~5-1103.~~ **5-1104.**

24 **(A) THE PURPOSE OF A LOCAL TEAM IS TO PREVENT SUICIDE DEATHS BY:**

25 **(1) REVIEWING SUICIDE DEATHS OF RESIDENTS OF THE COUNTY OR**
26 **THAT OCCUR WITHIN THE COUNTY;**

27 **(2) IDENTIFYING SYSTEMIC, SERVICE, AND POLICY FACTORS**
28 **ASSOCIATED WITH RISK OF SUICIDE;**

29 **(3) PROMOTING COORDINATION BETWEEN ENTITIES INVOLVED IN**
30 **SUICIDE PREVENTION, CRISIS RESPONSE, TREATMENT, AND POSTVENTION; AND**

1 (4) DEVELOPING RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT SUICIDE.

2 (B) A LOCAL TEAM MAY:

3 (1) EXAMINE TRENDS IN SUICIDE AND FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE
4 TO SUICIDE RISK;

5 (2) SHARE INFORMATION WITH OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH
6 AUTHORITIES OR THEIR DESIGNEES AS THE LOCAL TEAM DETERMINES NECESSARY
7 TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBTITLE;

8 (3) IDENTIFY GAPS IN SYSTEMS OF CARE OR COORDINATION
9 BETWEEN ENTITIES INVOLVED IN SUICIDE PREVENTION, CRISIS RESPONSE,
10 TREATMENT, AND POSTVENTION; AND

11 ~~(3)~~ (4) SUBMIT RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE STATE SUICIDE
12 FATALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBTITLE 10 OF THIS TITLE,
13 OR OTHER LOCAL ENTITIES AS DETERMINED APPROPRIATE BY THE LOCAL TEAM.

14 (C) A LOCAL CHILD FATALITY REVIEW TEAM:

15 (1) FOR A SUICIDE DEATH INVOLVING AN INDIVIDUAL UNDER THE
16 AGE OF 18 YEARS, SHALL RETAIN THE PRIMARY AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT THE
17 REVIEW IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBTITLE 7 OF THIS TITLE; AND

18 (2) MAY COORDINATE OR CONDUCT A JOINT REVIEW WITH THE
19 LOCAL TEAM.

20 ~~5-1104.~~ 5-1105.

21 A PERSON SHALL HAVE THE IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY UNDER § 5-637 OF
22 THE COURTS ARTICLE FOR ANY ACTION AS A MEMBER OF THE LOCAL TEAM FOR
23 GIVING INFORMATION TO, PARTICIPATING IN, OR CONTRIBUTING TO THE FUNCTION
24 OF THE LOCAL TEAM.

25 5-1106.

26 (A) A LOCAL TEAM MAY REQUEST RECORDS UNDER THIS SECTION UNDER
27 THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE TEAM.

28 (B) ON REQUEST OF THE CHAIR OF A LOCAL TEAM AND AS NECESSARY TO
29 CARRY OUT THE PURPOSE AND DUTIES OF THE LOCAL TEAM, A HEALTH CARE
30 PROVIDER OR A LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY SHALL IMMEDIATELY PROVIDE TO

1 THE LOCAL TEAM ANY RECORDS OF THE HEALTH CARE PROVIDER OR LOCAL
2 GOVERNMENT AGENCY NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE REVIEW OF A SPECIFIC
3 FATALITY, INCLUDING:

4 (1) HOSPITAL RECORDS;

5 (2) OUTPATIENT CLINIC, HEALTH CARE PROVIDER, AND
6 LABORATORY RECORDS;

7 (3) POLICE INVESTIGATIVE DATA;

8 (4) MEDICAL EXAMINER INVESTIGATIVE DATA;

9 (5) CAUSE OF DEATH INFORMATION IN VITAL RECORDS;

10 (6) SOCIAL SERVICES RECORDS; AND

11 (7) OTHER RECORDS FROM LOCAL OFFICES, AGENCIES, AND
12 DEPARTMENTS.

13 (C) THE LOCAL TEAM MAY REQUEST THAT A PERSON WITH DIRECT
14 KNOWLEDGE OF CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING A FATALITY PROVIDE THE LOCAL
15 TEAM WITH THE INFORMATION NECESSARY TO COMPLETE REVIEW OF THE
16 PARTICULAR FATALITY, INCLUDING INFORMATION FROM:

17 (1) A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER OR STAFF INVOLVED IN THE CARE OF
18 THE DECEDENT; AND

19 (2) THE PERSON WHO FIRST RESPONDED TO A REPORT CONCERNING
20 THE DECEDENT.

21 5-1107.

22 A LOCAL TEAM IS A PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITY, AS DEFINED IN 45 C.F.R. §
23 164.501, CONDUCTING PUBLIC HEALTH ACTIVITIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
24 FEDERAL HEALTH INSURANCE PORTABILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT.

25 5-1108.

26 (A) MEETINGS OF LOCAL TEAMS SHALL BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC AND ARE
27 NOT SUBJECT TO THE ~~MARYLAND~~ OPEN MEETINGS ACT WHEN THE LOCAL TEAMS
28 ARE DISCUSSING INDIVIDUAL CASES OF SUICIDE.

1 **(B) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, MEETINGS**
2 **OF LOCAL TEAMS SHALL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND ARE SUBJECT TO THE**
3 **MARYLAND OPEN MEETINGS ACT WHEN THE LOCAL TEAM IS NOT DISCUSSING**
4 **INDIVIDUAL CASES OF SUICIDE.**

5 **(C) (1) DURING A PUBLIC MEETING, INFORMATION MAY NOT BE**
6 **DISCLOSED THAT IDENTIFIES:**

7 **(I) A DECEASED INDIVIDUAL;**

8 **(II) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS EXPERIENCED SUICIDE OR A**
9 **SUICIDE ATTEMPT;**

10 **(III) A FAMILY MEMBER, GUARDIAN, OR CARETAKER OF AN**
11 **INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBED IN ITEM (I) OR (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH; OR**

12 **(IV) AN INDIVIDUAL CONVICTED OF A CRIME OR ADJUDICATED**
13 **AS HAVING COMMITTED A DELINQUENT ACT THAT CAUSED A DEATH OR NEAR**
14 **FATALITY.**

15 **(2) DURING A PUBLIC MEETING, INFORMATION MAY NOT BE**
16 **DISCLOSED ABOUT THE INVOLVEMENT OF AN AGENCY WITH:**

17 **(I) A DECEASED INDIVIDUAL;**

18 **(II) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS EXPERIENCED SUICIDE OR A**
19 **SUICIDE ATTEMPT;**

20 **(III) A FAMILY MEMBER, GUARDIAN, OR CARETAKER OF A**
21 **DECEASED INDIVIDUAL OR OF AN INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBED IN ITEM (I) OR (II) OF THIS**
22 **PARAGRAPH; OR**

23 **(IV) AN INDIVIDUAL CONVICTED OF A CRIME OR ADJUDICATED**
24 **AS HAVING COMMITTED A DELINQUENT ACT THAT CAUSED A DEATH OR NEAR**
25 **FATALITY.**

26 **(D) THIS SECTION DOES NOT PROHIBIT A LOCAL TEAM FROM REQUESTING**
27 **THE ATTENDANCE OF A PERSON WHO HAS INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE LOCAL**
28 **TEAM'S EXERCISE OF ITS PURPOSE AND DUTIES AT A TEAM MEETING.**

29 **(E) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR**
30 **AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$500 OR**
31 **IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 90 DAYS OR BOTH.**

1 ~~5-1105~~, 5-1109.

2 (A) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION, ALL INFORMATION
3 AND RECORDS ACQUIRED BY A LOCAL TEAM IN THE EXERCISE OF ITS PURPOSE AND
4 DUTIES UNDER THIS SUBTITLE:

5 (1) ARE CONFIDENTIAL;

6 (2) ARE EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE UNDER THE ~~MARYLAND~~ PUBLIC
7 INFORMATION ACT; ~~AND~~

8 (3) ARE NOT SUBJECT TO DISCOVERY AND MAY NOT BE INTRODUCED
9 AS EVIDENCE IN ANY PROCEEDING; AND

10 ~~(3)~~ (4) MAY BE DISCLOSED ONLY AS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT
11 THE LOCAL TEAM'S PURPOSE AND DUTIES.

12 (B) (1) MENTAL HEALTH RECORDS ARE SUBJECT TO THE ADDITIONAL
13 LIMITATIONS UNDER § 4-307 OF THIS ARTICLE FOR DISCLOSURE OF A MEDICAL
14 RECORD DEVELOPED PRIMARILY IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROVISION OF MENTAL
15 HEALTH SERVICES.

16 (2) SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT RECORDS ARE SUBJECT TO ANY
17 ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS FOR DISCLOSURE OR REDISCLOSURE OF A MEDICAL
18 RECORD DEVELOPED IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROVISION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE
19 TREATMENT SERVICES UNDER STATE LAW, 42 U.S.C. § 290DD-2, OR 42 C.F.R. PART
20 2.

21 (C) STATISTICAL COMPILATIONS OF DATA THAT DO NOT CONTAIN ANY
22 ~~PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION~~ INFORMATION THAT WOULD ALLOW THE
23 IDENTIFICATION OF ANY PERSON TO BE ASCERTAINED ARE PUBLIC RECORDS.

24 (D) REPORTS OF A LOCAL TEAM THAT DO NOT CONTAIN ANY PERSONALLY
25 IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION ARE PUBLIC RECORDS.

26 (E) EXCEPT AS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT A LOCAL TEAM'S PURPOSE AND
27 DUTIES, MEMBERS OF A LOCAL TEAM AND PERSONS ATTENDING A LOCAL TEAM
28 MEETING MAY NOT DISCLOSE:

29 (1) ANY PROCEEDING AT A NONPUBLIC MEETING UNDER ~~§ 5-1104~~ §
30 5-1108 OF THIS SUBTITLE; OR

1 **(2) ANY INFORMATION THAT MAY NOT BE DISCLOSED UNDER THIS**
2 **SECTION.**

3 **(F) (1) MEMBERS OF A LOCAL TEAM, PERSONS ATTENDING A LOCAL**
4 **TEAM MEETING, AND PERSONS WHO PRESENT INFORMATION TO A LOCAL TEAM MAY**
5 **NOT BE QUESTIONED IN ANY CIVIL OR CRIMINAL PROCEEDING ABOUT INFORMATION**
6 **PRESENTED IN OR OPINIONS FORMED AS A RESULT OF A MEETING.**

7 **(2) THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT PROHIBIT A PERSON FROM**
8 **TESTIFYING TO INFORMATION THAT IS OBTAINED INDEPENDENTLY OF A LOCAL**
9 **TEAM OR THAT IS PUBLIC INFORMATION.**

10 **(G) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION,**
11 **INFORMATION, DOCUMENTS, OR RECORDS OF A LOCAL TEAM ARE NOT SUBJECT TO**
12 **SUBPOENA, DISCOVERY, OR INTRODUCTION INTO EVIDENCE IN ANY CIVIL OR**
13 **CRIMINAL PROCEEDING.**

14 **(2) INFORMATION, DOCUMENTS, OR RECORDS OTHERWISE**
15 **AVAILABLE FROM OTHER SOURCES ARE NOT IMMUNE FROM SUBPOENA, DISCOVERY,**
16 **OR INTRODUCTION INTO EVIDENCE THROUGH THOSE SOURCES SOLELY BECAUSE**
17 **THEY WERE PRESENTED DURING PROCEEDINGS OF A LOCAL TEAM OR ARE**
18 **MAINTAINED BY A LOCAL TEAM.**

19 **(H) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR**
20 **AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$500 OR**
21 **IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 90 DAYS OR BOTH.**

22 **5-1110.**

23 **THE DEPARTMENT MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SUBTITLE,**
24 **INCLUDING:**

25 **(1) PROTOCOLS, PROCEDURES, AND METHODS FOR, AND THE**
26 **MANNER AND EXTENT OF INVESTIGATIONS AND REVIEWS BY LOCAL TEAMS;**

27 **(2) THE MANNER IN WHICH DATA PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT IS**
28 **TO BE STORED AND SECURED;**

29 **(3) THE MANNER IN WHICH, AND EXTENT TO WHICH, INFORMATION**
30 **BASED ON DATA PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT MAY BE DISSEMINATED.**

31 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
32 October 1, 2026.