

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 745

(Senator McKay, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

Judiciary

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Police Training - Autism and Dementia (LEAD Act of 2026)

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This bill requires the Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (MPTSC) to require, for entrance-level police training and, as determined by MPTSC, for in-service level training conducted by the State and each county and municipal police training school, that the curriculum and minimum courses of study include, consistent with established law enforcement standards and federal and State constitutional provisions, training regarding individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, dementia, and autism, including training for (1) locating an individual who is wandering, eloping, or otherwise missing; (2) searching near bodies of water; (3) sensory-aware approaches; (4) reunification; (5) documentation; and (6) interagency coordination. (While current law already requires training regarding individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, it does not include provisions specifying what that training must include.)

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** The bill is not anticipated to materially affect State finances or operations.

**Local Effect:** Potential minimal increase in local government expenditures to conduct additional training to the extent any local police training schools do not already conduct the specific training required by the bill. Revenues are not affected.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** MPTSC operates approved police training schools and prescribes standards for and certifies schools that offer police and security training. In consultation and

cooperation with various entities, it also sets minimum qualifications for instructors and certifies qualified instructors for approved training schools.

Among other powers and duties, MPTSC has the power and duty to require, for entrance-level police training and, as determined by MPTSC, for in-service level training conducted by the State and each county and municipal police training school, that the curriculum and minimum courses of study include, consistent with established law enforcement standards and federal and State constitutional provisions, the following: (1) training in lifesaving techniques, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation; (2) training in the proper level and use of force, as specified; (3) training regarding sensitivity to cultural and gender diversity; and (4) training regarding individuals with physical, intellectual, developmental, and psychiatric disabilities.

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### **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

**Designated Cross File:** HB 634 (Delegate Kaufman, *et al.*) - Judiciary.

**Information Source(s):** Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Cecil, Montgomery, and Somerset counties; City of Frederick; Maryland Municipal League; Department of Natural Resources; Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services; Department of State Police; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 15, 2026  
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