

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
Legislative Session 2025, Legislative Day No. 12

Bill No. 43-25

Mr. Julian E. Jones, Jr., Councilman

By the County Council, July 7, 2025

A BILL
ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Voluntary Security Camera Registration Program

FOR the purpose of amending the Voluntary Security Camera Registration Program; providing for the Police Department to maintain the registry; providing for the application of the program; authorizing the adoption of certain regulations; and generally relating to a Voluntary Security Camera Registration Program.

BY repealing and re-enacting, with amendments

Section 13-11-301 through 13-11-305

Article 13 – Public Health, Safety, and the Environment

Title 11 – Alarms

Subtitle 3 – Voluntary Private Security or Surveillance Camera Registration Program
Baltimore County Code, 2015

1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from bill.
Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the Laws of Baltimore County read as follows:

ARTICLE 13 – PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Title 11 – Alarms

Subtitle 3 – Voluntary [Private] Security [or Surveillance] Camera Registration Program

§ 13-11-301. Program Established; PURPOSE.

(A) There is a voluntary [private] security [and surveillance] camera registration program.

(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE VOLUNTARY SECURITY CAMERA REGISTRATION PROGRAM IS TO PROMOTE PUBLIC SAFETY, DETER CRIME, AND ASSIST LAW ENFORCEMENT INVESTIGATIONS BY ESTABLISHING A REGISTRY, MAINTAINED BY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, OF PROPERTY OWNERS WHO REGISTER THEIR SECURITY CAMERAS.

§ 13-11-302. Location; Registration[; Incentives and Privacy].

(a) [Commercial and residential private property owners who use private security or surveillance cameras to monitor their real property are encouraged to utilize at least one such camera pointed toward a public right-of-way, and to register the location of their cameras with the county.

(b)] [A] AN OWNER OF commercial or residential private property [owner] may VOLUNTARILY register ONE OR MORE OF their private security [or surveillance camera] CAMERAS on a [written] form provided by the [Office of Budget and Finance or through an

1 online form on the county's website.] COUNTY.

2 (B) REGISTRANTS SHALL PROVIDE CONTACT INFORMATION AND CAMERA
3 LOCATIONS.

4 [(c) Private property owners that voluntarily register a private security or surveillance
5 camera will receive the following incentives for doing so:

6 (1) The county will waive the alarm permit fee for the installation of a new alarm
7 system that includes private security or surveillance cameras or the upgrade of a current alarm
8 system that includes such cameras; and

9 (2) Participants in the program will be permitted one additional false alarm
10 waiver in a calendar year.

11 (d) To protect the privacy of surrounding private property owners, registration shall
12 require that the property owner certify that the camera is located wholly on their property.]

13 (C) REGISTRANTS ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT MAY
14 USE THE CONTACT INFORMATION ON THE REGISTRY TO REQUEST CAMERA
15 FOOTAGE AND DATA IN THE COURSE OF A LAW ENFORCEMENT INVESTIGATION.

16
17 § 13-11-303. AUTHORITY TO USE Records; Confidentiality.

18 (a) Registration records [shall be kept by the Office of Budget and Finance and]
19 RETAINED BY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT shall be kept confidential to the extent
20 permitted by law.

21 (b) [Upon obtaining any footage or data under this subtitle, such footage or data shall be
22 utilized to further a law enforcement investigation and shall be kept confidential to the extent
23 permitted by law.] THE POLICE DEPARTMENT MAY USE THE CONTACT

1 INFORMATION IN THE REGISTRY TO REQUEST ACCESS TO A REGISTRANT'S
2 CAMERA FOOTAGE AND DATA IN THE COURSE OF A LAW ENFORCEMENT
3 INVESTIGATION.

4
5 § 13-11-304. Expiration of Registration.

6 To [promote and] ensure the [continued accuracy of the camera location,] REGISTRY
7 REMAINS ACCURATE, registration shall [automatically] expire after two years, after which
8 the property owner may renew the registration [in the same manner as set forth in § 13-11-302].

9
10 § 13-11-305. Adoption of Regulations.

11 The Director of the Office of [Budget and Finance, in consultation with the Director of
12 the Office of] Information Technology and the Chief of Police, may adopt regulations in
13 accordance with Article 3, Title 7 of the Code in order to carry out the purposes of this subtitle.

14
15 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that this Act shall take effect 45 days
16 from the date of its enactment.