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By: **Delegates Moe, Barve, Benson, Bobo, Bohanan, Bozman, Branch, Bromwell, Cardin, G. Clagett, Conway, D. Davis, DeBoy, Donoghue, Feldman, Frush, Glassman, Griffith, Healey, Howard, Hurson, Jones, Madaleno, Malone, Marriott, McHale, Myers, Parrott, Pendergrass, Proctor, Rudolph, Stull, F. Turner, and Weir**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2005

Assigned to: Appropriations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Whistleblower Law - Disclosure of Information - Public**  
 3 **Information Officers**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting reprisal against certain public information officers  
 5 who disclose certain information to the media; and generally relating to public  
 6 information officers, the disclosure of information, and Maryland Whistleblower  
 7 Law.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
 9 Article - State Personnel and Pensions  
 10 Section 5-305  
 11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 12 (2004 Replacement Volume)

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

15 **Article - State Personnel and Pensions**

16 5-305.

17 Subject to the limitations of § 5-306 of this subtitle, a supervisor, appointing  
 18 authority, or the head of a principal unit may not take or refuse to take any personnel  
 19 action as a reprisal against an employee who:

20 (1) discloses information that the employee reasonably believes  
 21 evidences:

22 (i) an abuse of authority, gross mismanagement, or gross waste of  
 23 money;

24 (ii) a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety; or

1 (iii) a violation of law; [or]

2 (2) IS A PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER FOR A UNIT OF STATE OR LOCAL  
3 GOVERNMENT AND DISCLOSES INFORMATION TO THE MEDIA; OR

4 [(2)] (3) following a disclosure under [item] ITEMS (1) AND (2) of this  
5 section seeks a remedy provided under this subtitle or any other law or policy  
6 governing the employee's unit.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
8 October 1, 2005.