

HOUSE BILL 559

P1
HB 1427/13 – JUD

4r1917
CF 4r2359

By: **Delegates B. Robinson, Cullison, Dwyer, Glenn, McComas, A. Miller,
Nathan–Pulliam, Rosenberg, and Stocksdale**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2014

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Government – Human Trafficking Address Confidentiality Program**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Secretary of State to establish the Human
4 Trafficking Address Confidentiality Program for victims of human trafficking;
5 stating the purpose of the Program; establishing eligibility requirements of the
6 Program; establishing application and participation requirements of the
7 Program; requiring an applicant to provide a certain release and waiver of
8 future claims against the State; prohibiting false statements in an application;
9 establishing penalties for a violation of certain provisions of this Act;
10 establishing participation cancellation procedures; authorizing a Program
11 participant to request that certain agencies use a substitute address designated
12 under the Program as the Program participant’s address; establishing a method
13 for certain agencies to apply for a waiver from the requirements of the Program;
14 requiring that a certain address be used for voter registration and
15 election–related purposes; prohibiting certain disclosures of a Program
16 participant’s address; providing a penalty for certain unauthorized disclosures
17 of a Program participant’s address; requiring the Secretary of State to adopt
18 regulations to carry out this Act; defining certain terms; and generally relating
19 to the Human Trafficking Address Confidentiality Program.

20 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
21 Article – Election Law
22 Section 3–505
23 Annotated Code of Maryland
24 (2010 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

25 BY adding to
26 Article – State Government
27 Section 7–301 through 7–312 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 3. Human
28 Trafficking Address Confidentiality Program”

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Annotated Code of Maryland
2 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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

5 **Article – Election Law**

6 3–505.

7 (a) The State Board shall adopt regulations for the retention and storage of
8 and reasonable access to original voter registration applications and other voter
9 registration records the State Board considers appropriate.

10 (b) (1) Voter registration records stored and retained in a local board
11 office shall be open to public inspection.

12 (2) For the purpose of public inspection, original voter registration
13 records:

14 (i) subject to § 4–527(b) of the Family Law Article **AND §**
15 **7–309(B) OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE** and except upon the special order
16 of the local board, shall be available at all times when a local board is open; and

17 (ii) may not be removed from the office of the local board except:

18 1. on order of a court; or

19 2. for temporary removal solely for purposes of data
20 processing.

21 (c) (1) Consistent with regulations adopted by the State Board, local
22 boards shall maintain for at least 2 years all records concerning programs to ensure
23 the accuracy and currency of the statewide voter registration list.

24 (2) Except for records concerning a declination to register or the
25 identity of a voter registration agency through which a particular voter applies for
26 registration, the records described in paragraph (1) of this subsection are accessible
27 under Title 10, Subtitle 6, Part III of the State Government Article (Access to Public
28 Records).

29 **Article – State Government**

30 **SUBTITLE 3. HUMAN TRAFFICKING ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM.**

31 **7–301.**

1 **(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
2 **INDICATED.**

3 **(B) “ACTUAL ADDRESS” MEANS A RESIDENTIAL STREET ADDRESS,**
4 **SCHOOL ADDRESS, OR WORK ADDRESS OF AN INDIVIDUAL AS SPECIFIED ON THE**
5 **INDIVIDUAL’S APPLICATION TO BE A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT UNDER THIS**
6 **SUBTITLE.**

7 **(C) “DISABLED PERSON” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 13-101 OF**
8 **THE ESTATES AND TRUSTS ARTICLE.**

9 **(D) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING ADDRESS**
10 **CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM.**

11 **(E) “PROGRAM PARTICIPANT” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL DESIGNATED AS**
12 **A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.**

13 **(F) “VICTIM OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS**
14 **BEEN RECRUITED, HARBORED, TRANSPORTED, PROVIDED, OR OBTAINED FOR**
15 **LABOR, SERVICES, OR A SEXUAL ACT THROUGH THE USE OF FORCE, FRAUD, OR**
16 **COERCION.**

17 **7-302.**

18 **THE PURPOSE OF THIS SUBTITLE IS TO ENABLE:**

19 **(1) STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS FOR**
20 **PUBLIC RECORDS WITHOUT DISCLOSING THE LOCATION OF A VICTIM OF HUMAN**
21 **TRAFFICKING;**

22 **(2) INTERAGENCY COOPERATION IN PROVIDING ADDRESS**
23 **CONFIDENTIALITY FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING; AND**

24 **(3) STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES TO ACCEPT A PROGRAM**
25 **PARTICIPANT’S USE OF AN ADDRESS DESIGNATED BY THE OFFICE OF THE**
26 **SECRETARY OF STATE AS A SUBSTITUTE ADDRESS.**

27 **7-303.**

28 **THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL ESTABLISH AND ADMINISTER A HUMAN**
29 **TRAFFICKING ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN**
30 **TRAFFICKING.**

1 **7-304.**

2 (A) THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS MAY APPLY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
3 PROGRAM:

4 (1) AN INDIVIDUAL ACTING ON THE INDIVIDUAL'S OWN BEHALF;

5 (2) A PARENT OR GUARDIAN ACTING ON BEHALF OF A MINOR WHO
6 RESIDES WITH THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN; OR

7 (3) A GUARDIAN ACTING ON BEHALF OF A DISABLED PERSON.

8 (B) AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM SHALL BE IN
9 THE FORM REQUIRED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND SHALL CONTAIN:

10 (1) A STATEMENT THAT:

11 (I) THE APPLICANT IS A VICTIM OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING;

12 AND

13 (II) THE APPLICANT FEARS FOR THE APPLICANT'S SAFETY
14 OR THE SAFETY OF THE APPLICANT'S CHILD;

15 (2) EVIDENCE THAT THE APPLICANT IS A VICTIM OF HUMAN
16 TRAFFICKING, INCLUDING:

17 (I) CERTIFIED LAW ENFORCEMENT, COURT, OR OTHER
18 FEDERAL OR STATE AGENCY RECORDS OR FILES;

19 (II) DOCUMENTATION FROM A HUMAN TRAFFICKING
20 PREVENTION OR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM; OR

21 (III) DOCUMENTATION FROM A RELIGIOUS, MEDICAL, OR
22 OTHER PROFESSIONAL FROM WHOM THE APPLICANT HAS SOUGHT ASSISTANCE
23 OR TREATMENT AS A VICTIM OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING;

24 (3) A STATEMENT THAT DISCLOSURE OF THE APPLICANT'S
25 ACTUAL ADDRESS WOULD ENDANGER THE APPLICANT'S SAFETY OR THE SAFETY
26 OF THE APPLICANT'S CHILD;

27 (4) A KNOWING AND VOLUNTARY DESIGNATION OF THE
28 SECRETARY OF STATE AS AGENT FOR PURPOSES OF SERVICE OF PROCESS AND
29 RECEIPT OF FIRST-CLASS, CERTIFIED, OR REGISTERED MAIL;

1 **(5) THE MAILING ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER AT WHICH**
2 **THE APPLICANT MAY BE CONTACTED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE;**

3 **(6) THE ACTUAL ADDRESS THAT THE APPLICANT REQUESTS NOT**
4 **BE DISCLOSED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE BECAUSE IT WOULD INCREASE**
5 **THE RISK OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING OR OTHER CRIMES;**

6 **(7) A SWORN STATEMENT BY THE APPLICANT THAT, TO THE BEST**
7 **OF THE APPLICANT'S KNOWLEDGE, ALL THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE**
8 **APPLICATION IS TRUE;**

9 **(8) THE SIGNATURE OF THE APPLICANT AND THE DATE ON WHICH**
10 **THE APPLICANT SIGNED THE APPLICATION; AND**

11 **(9) A VOLUNTARY RELEASE AND WAIVER OF ALL FUTURE CLAIMS**
12 **AGAINST THE STATE THAT MAY ARISE FROM PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM**
13 **EXCEPT FOR A CLAIM BASED ON GROSS NEGLIGENCE.**

14 **(C) (1) (I) ON THE FILING OF A PROPERLY COMPLETED**
15 **APPLICATION AND RELEASE, THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL:**

16 **1. REVIEW THE APPLICATION AND RELEASE; AND**

17 **2. IF THE APPLICATION AND RELEASE ARE**
18 **PROPERLY COMPLETED AND ACCURATE, DESIGNATE THE APPLICANT AS A**
19 **PROGRAM PARTICIPANT.**

20 **(II) AN APPLICANT SHALL BE A PARTICIPANT FOR 4 YEARS**
21 **FROM THE DATE OF FILING UNLESS THE PARTICIPATION IS CANCELED OR**
22 **WITHDRAWN PRIOR TO THE END OF THE 4-YEAR PERIOD.**

23 **(2) A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT MAY WITHDRAW FROM**
24 **PARTICIPATION BY FILING A SIGNED, NOTARIZED REQUEST FOR WITHDRAWAL**
25 **WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE.**

26 **7-305.**

27 **(A) IF AN APPLICANT FALSELY ATTESTS IN AN APPLICATION THAT**
28 **DISCLOSURE OF THE APPLICANT'S ACTUAL ADDRESS WOULD ENDANGER THE**
29 **APPLICANT'S SAFETY OR THE SAFETY OF THE APPLICANT'S CHILD OR**
30 **KNOWINGLY PROVIDES FALSE INFORMATION WHEN APPLYING FOR**
31 **PARTICIPATION OR RENEWAL OF PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM, THE**

1 APPLICANT SHALL NO LONGER BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
2 PROGRAM.

3 (B) A PERSON MAY NOT KNOWINGLY MAKE A FALSE ATTESTATION OR
4 KNOWINGLY PROVIDE FALSE INFORMATION IN AN APPLICATION IN VIOLATION
5 OF SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.

6 (C) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION IS
7 GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO
8 IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 6 MONTHS OR A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$500 OR
9 BOTH.

10 **7-306.**

11 (A) IF A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT OBTAINS A LEGAL NAME CHANGE, THE
12 PROGRAM PARTICIPANT SHALL NOTIFY THE SECRETARY OF STATE WITHIN 30
13 DAYS AND PROVIDE THE SECRETARY OF STATE WITH A CERTIFIED COPY OF ANY
14 JUDGMENT OR ORDER EVIDENCING THE CHANGE OR ANY OTHER
15 DOCUMENTATION THE SECRETARY OF STATE CONSIDERS TO BE SUFFICIENT
16 EVIDENCE OF THE CHANGE.

17 (B) IF A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT MAKES A CHANGE IN ADDRESS OR
18 TELEPHONE NUMBER FROM AN ADDRESS OR A TELEPHONE NUMBER LISTED ON
19 THE PROGRAM PARTICIPANT'S APPLICATION, THE PROGRAM PARTICIPANT
20 SHALL NOTIFY THE SECRETARY OF STATE AT LEAST 7 DAYS BEFORE THE
21 CHANGE OCCURS.

22 **7-307.**

23 (A) THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL CANCEL THE PARTICIPATION OF
24 A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT IF:

25 (1) THE PROGRAM PARTICIPANT FAILS TO NOTIFY THE
26 SECRETARY OF STATE OF ANY LEGAL NAME CHANGE OR CHANGE IN ADDRESS
27 OR TELEPHONE NUMBER IN THE MANNER REQUIRED BY § 7-306 OF THIS
28 SUBTITLE;

29 (2) THE PROGRAM PARTICIPANT FILES A REQUEST FOR
30 WITHDRAWAL OF PARTICIPATION UNDER § 7-304(C)(2) OF THIS SUBTITLE;

31 (3) THE PROGRAM PARTICIPANT SUBMITS FALSE INFORMATION
32 IN APPLYING FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM IN VIOLATION OF § 7-305
33 OF THIS SUBTITLE; OR

1 **(4) THE SECRETARY OF STATE FORWARDS MAIL TO THE**
2 **PROGRAM PARTICIPANT AND THE MAIL IS RETURNED AS UNDELIVERABLE.**

3 **(B) THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL SEND NOTICE OF ANY**
4 **CANCELLATION OF PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM TO THE PARTICIPANT AND**
5 **SHALL SET FORTH THE REASON FOR CANCELLATION.**

6 **(C) A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT MAY APPEAL ANY CANCELLATION**
7 **DECISION BY FILING AN APPEAL WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE WITHIN 30**
8 **DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF THE NOTICE OF CANCELLATION IN ACCORDANCE**
9 **WITH PROCEDURES DEVELOPED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE.**

10 **(D) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO CEASES TO BE A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT IS**
11 **RESPONSIBLE FOR NOTIFYING ANY PERSON WHO USES THE SUBSTITUTE**
12 **ADDRESS DESIGNATED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE THAT THE SUBSTITUTE**
13 **ADDRESS IS NO LONGER VALID.**

14 **7-308.**

15 **(A) A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT MAY MAKE A REQUEST TO ANY STATE OR**
16 **LOCAL AGENCY TO USE A SUBSTITUTE ADDRESS DESIGNATED BY THE**
17 **SECRETARY OF STATE AS THE PROGRAM PARTICIPANT'S ADDRESS.**

18 **(B) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, WHEN A PROGRAM**
19 **PARTICIPANT HAS MADE A REQUEST TO A STATE OR LOCAL AGENCY UNDER**
20 **SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, THE STATE OR LOCAL AGENCY SHALL USE**
21 **THE SUBSTITUTE ADDRESS DESIGNATED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE AS A**
22 **PROGRAM PARTICIPANT'S ADDRESS.**

23 **(C) (1) A STATE OR LOCAL AGENCY THAT HAS A BONA FIDE**
24 **STATUTORY OR ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENT FOR USING A PROGRAM**
25 **PARTICIPANT'S ACTUAL ADDRESS MAY APPLY TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE**
26 **FOR A WAIVER FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PROGRAM.**

27 **(2) IF THE SECRETARY OF STATE APPROVES THE WAIVER, THE**
28 **STATE OR LOCAL AGENCY SHALL USE THE PROGRAM PARTICIPANT'S ACTUAL**
29 **ADDRESS ONLY FOR THE REQUIRED STATUTORY OR ADMINISTRATIVE**
30 **PURPOSES.**

31 **7-309.**

1 **(A) (1) EACH LOCAL BOARD OF ELECTIONS SHALL USE A PROGRAM**
2 **PARTICIPANT'S ACTUAL ADDRESS FOR ALL ELECTION-RELATED PURPOSES.**

3 **(2) A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT MAY NOT USE THE SUBSTITUTE**
4 **ADDRESS DESIGNATED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE AS THE PROGRAM**
5 **PARTICIPANT'S ADDRESS FOR VOTER REGISTRATION PURPOSES.**

6 **(B) A LOCAL BOARD OF ELECTIONS MAY NOT MAKE A PROGRAM**
7 **PARTICIPANT'S ADDRESS CONTAINED IN VOTER REGISTRATION RECORDS**
8 **AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION OR COPYING EXCEPT:**

9 **(1) ON REQUEST BY A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY FOR LAW**
10 **ENFORCEMENT PURPOSES; AND**

11 **(2) AS DIRECTED BY A COURT ORDER TO DISCLOSE THE ADDRESS.**

12 **7-310.**

13 **(A) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY THIS SUBTITLE, A RECORD OF**
14 **A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT'S ACTUAL ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER**
15 **MAINTAINED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE OR A STATE OR LOCAL AGENCY IS**
16 **NOT A PUBLIC RECORD WITHIN THE MEANING OF § 10-611 OF THIS ARTICLE.**

17 **(B) THE SECRETARY OF STATE MAY NOT DISCLOSE A PROGRAM**
18 **PARTICIPANT'S ACTUAL ADDRESS OR TELEPHONE NUMBER OR SUBSTITUTE**
19 **ADDRESS EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION AND:**

20 **(1) (I) ON REQUEST BY A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY FOR**
21 **LAW ENFORCEMENT PURPOSES; AND**

22 **(II) AS DIRECTED BY A COURT ORDER; OR**

23 **(2) ON REQUEST BY A STATE OR LOCAL AGENCY TO VERIFY A**
24 **PROGRAM PARTICIPANT'S PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM OR SUBSTITUTE**
25 **ADDRESS FOR USE UNDER § 7-308 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

26 **(C) THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL NOTIFY THE APPROPRIATE**
27 **COURT OF A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT'S PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM AND**
28 **OF THE SUBSTITUTE ADDRESS DESIGNATED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE IF**
29 **THE PROGRAM PARTICIPANT:**

30 **(1) IS SUBJECT TO A COURT ORDER OR AN ADMINISTRATIVE**
31 **ORDER;**

1 **(2)** IS INVOLVED IN A COURT ACTION OR AN ADMINISTRATIVE
2 ACTION; OR

3 **(3)** IS A WITNESS OR A PARTY IN A CIVIL OR CRIMINAL
4 PROCEEDING.

5 **7-311.**

6 **(A)** A PERSON MAY NOT KNOWINGLY AND INTENTIONALLY OBTAIN A
7 PROGRAM PARTICIPANT'S ACTUAL ADDRESS OR TELEPHONE NUMBER FROM
8 THE SECRETARY OF STATE OR ANY AGENCY WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION TO
9 OBTAIN THE INFORMATION.

10 **(B) (1)** THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES ONLY WHEN AN EMPLOYEE OF
11 THE SECRETARY OF STATE:

12 **(I)** OBTAINS A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT'S ACTUAL ADDRESS
13 OR TELEPHONE NUMBER DURING THE COURSE OF THE EMPLOYEE'S OFFICIAL
14 DUTIES; AND

15 **(II)** AT THE TIME OF DISCLOSURE, HAS SPECIFIC
16 KNOWLEDGE THAT THE ACTUAL ADDRESS OR TELEPHONE NUMBER BELONGS TO
17 A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT.

18 **(2)** AN EMPLOYEE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE OR ANY STATE
19 OR LOCAL AGENCY MAY NOT KNOWINGLY AND INTENTIONALLY DISCLOSE A
20 PROGRAM PARTICIPANT'S ACTUAL ADDRESS OR TELEPHONE NUMBER TO
21 ANOTHER PERSON UNLESS THE DISCLOSURE IS AUTHORIZED BY LAW.

22 **(C)** A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A
23 MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING
24 **\$2,500.**

25 **7-312.**

26 **THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT**
27 **THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

28 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED,** That this Act shall take effect
29 October 1, 2014.