

HOUSE BILL 946

D4, C2

6lr2324

By: **Delegate Dumais**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2016

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Domestic Violence – Confidentiality of Locations of Shelters**

3 FOR the purpose of expanding the purpose of the Address Confidentiality Program for
4 victims of domestic violence to include enabling shelters for victims of domestic
5 violence to maintain confidentiality of the actual locations of the shelters; prohibiting
6 an operator of a Web site, search engine, or mobile application from publishing,
7 disseminating, or otherwise disclosing the actual location of a shelter for victims of
8 domestic violence under certain circumstances; and generally relating to the
9 confidentiality of locations of shelters for victims of domestic violence.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Family Law
12 Section 4–520 and 4–529
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

Article – Family Law

18 4–520.

19 The purpose of this part is to enable:

20 (1) State and local agencies to respond to requests for public records
21 without disclosing the location of a victim of domestic violence;

22 (2) interagency cooperation in providing address confidentiality for victims
23 of domestic violence; [and]

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (3) State and local agencies to accept a Program participant's use of an
2 address designated by the Office of the Secretary of State as a substitute address; AND

3 (4) SHELTERS FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TO MAINTAIN
4 CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE ACTUAL LOCATIONS OF THE SHELTERS.

5 4-529.

6 (a) A person may not knowingly and intentionally obtain a Program participant's
7 actual address or telephone number from the Secretary of State or any agency without
8 authorization to obtain the information.

9 (b) (1) This subsection applies only when an employee of the Secretary of
10 State:

11 (i) obtains a Program participant's actual address or telephone
12 number during the course of the employee's official duties; and

13 (ii) at the time of disclosure, has specific knowledge that the actual
14 address or telephone number belongs to a Program participant.

15 (2) An employee of the Secretary of State or any agency may not knowingly
16 and intentionally disclose a Program participant's actual address or telephone number to
17 another person unless the disclosure is authorized by law.

18 (c) AN OPERATOR OF A WEB SITE, SEARCH ENGINE, OR MOBILE
19 APPLICATION MAY NOT PUBLISH, DISSEMINATE, OR OTHERWISE DISCLOSE THE
20 ACTUAL LOCATION OF A SHELTER FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNLESS
21 THE SHELTER HAS AUTHORIZED THE DISCLOSURE IN WRITING.

22 [(c)] (D) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on
23 conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$2,500.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
25 October 1, 2016.