

Chapter 630

(House Bill 773)

AN ACT concerning

Drunk and Drugged Driving – Evidence of Blood Test

FOR the purpose of providing that, if a law enforcement officer testifies that the officer witnessed the taking of a blood specimen by a person who the officer reasonably believed was a qualified medical person, the officer's testimony shall be sufficient evidence that the person was a qualified medical person and that the blood was obtained in compliance with certain provisions without testimony by the person who obtained the blood specimen; repealing certain procedures relating to the admissibility of evidence of a blood test in a prosecution for certain drunk or drugged driving offenses; altering a certain definition; and generally relating to the admissibility of evidence of a blood test in a prosecution for certain drunk or drugged driving offenses.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
 Section 10–304(a)(1)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
 Section 10–304(a)(2) and (c)(1)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

10–304.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) “Qualified medical person” means [any] A person permitted [by law] to withdraw blood from [humans] A HUMAN.

(c) (1) (i) The blood shall be obtained by a qualified medical person using equipment approved by the toxicologist under the Postmortem Examiners Commission acting at the request of a police officer.

[(ii) A certified statement by the qualified medical person who obtained the blood shall be prima facie evidence of that person's qualifications and that the blood was obtained in compliance with this section.

(iii) 1. A certified statement that complies with the requirements of this paragraph is admissible as substantive evidence without the presence or testimony of the qualified medical person who obtained the blood.

2. If the State decides to offer the certified statement without the testimony of the qualified medical person, the State shall, at least 30 days before trial, notify the defendant or the defendant's attorney in writing of the State's intention and deliver to the defendant or the defendant's attorney a copy of the certified statement to be offered.

3. If the District Court is deprived of jurisdiction under circumstances in which a defendant is entitled to and demands a jury trial, or appeals from the District Court to a circuit court, the State is not required to file a second notice.

(iv) 1. If the defendant desires the qualified medical person to be present and testify at trial, the defendant shall notify the court and the State in writing no later than 20 days before trial.

2. If the District Court is deprived of jurisdiction under circumstances in which a defendant is entitled to and demands a jury trial, or appeals from the District Court to a circuit court, the defendant shall notify the circuit court and the State in writing no later than 20 days before trial.

3. If the timely and proper notice required under this subparagraph is provided by the defendant, the certified statement is inadmissible without the testimony of the qualified medical person.

4. Failure to give the timely and proper notice constitutes a waiver of the defendant's right to the presence and testimony of the qualified medical person.]

(II) IF A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER TESTIFIES THAT THE OFFICER WITNESSED THE TAKING OF A BLOOD SPECIMEN BY A PERSON WHO THE OFFICER REASONABLY BELIEVED WAS A QUALIFIED MEDICAL PERSON, THE OFFICER'S TESTIMONY SHALL BE SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE THAT THE PERSON WAS A QUALIFIED MEDICAL PERSON AND THAT THE BLOOD WAS OBTAINED IN COMPLIANCE WITH THIS SECTION, WITHOUT TESTIMONY FROM THE PERSON WHO OBTAINED THE BLOOD SPECIMEN.

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

Approved by the Governor, May 19, 2016.