

SENATE BILL 274

D4

7lr2279
CF HB 293

By: **Senator Ramirez**

Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2017

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 14, 2017

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Family Law – Divorce – Domestic Violence Order**

3 FOR the purpose of ~~repealing~~ establishing a certain exception to a provision providing that
4 an order or a decision in a domestic violence proceeding is inadmissible as evidence
5 in a divorce proceeding; ~~repealing~~ establishing a certain exception to a provision
6 prohibiting a court from considering compliance with a domestic violence order as
7 grounds for granting a decree of limited or absolute divorce; and generally relating
8 to the admissibility and consideration of domestic violence orders in divorce
9 proceedings.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Family Law
12 Section 7–103.1
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Family Law**

18 ~~7~~–103.1.

19 (a) ~~An~~ **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, IN A**
20 **PROCEEDING UNDER THIS TITLE:**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 **(1)** AN order or decision in a proceeding under Title 4, Subtitle 5 of this
2 article is inadmissible as evidence ~~in a proceeding under this title;~~ **AND**

3 ~~(b)~~ **(2)** ~~In a proceeding under this title,~~ a court may not consider compliance
4 with an order issued under Title 4, Subtitle 5 of this article as grounds for granting a decree
5 of limited or absolute divorce.‡

6 **(B)** IN A PROCEEDING UNDER THIS TITLE, A FINAL PROTECTIVE ORDER
7 ISSUED UNDER § 4-506 OF THIS ARTICLE IS ADMISSIBLE AS EVIDENCE, AND THE
8 COURT MAY CONSIDER COMPLIANCE WITH THE FINAL PROTECTIVE ORDER AS
9 GROUND FOR GRANTING A DECREE OF LIMITED OR ABSOLUTE DIVORCE IF:

10 **(1)** THE RESPONDENT APPEARED BEFORE THE COURT AT THE FINAL
11 PROTECTIVE ORDER HEARING; AND

12 **(2)** THE FINAL PROTECTIVE ORDER WAS NOT ENTERED BY DEFAULT
13 OR CONSENT.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
15 October 1, 2017.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.