

Chapter 40

(Senate Bill 477)

AN ACT concerning

**Public Information Act – Required Denials – Physical Addresses, E-Mail
Addresses, and Telephone Numbers**

FOR the purpose of requiring a custodian to deny inspection of a distribution list and a request to be added to a distribution list that identifies a physical address, an e-mail address, or a telephone number of an individual that is used by a governmental entity or an elected official for the sole purpose of periodically sending news about certain activities or sending informational notices or emergency alerts; defining a certain term; making this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to the inspection of public records that identify physical addresses, e-mail addresses, and telephone numbers.

BY adding to
Article – General Provisions
Section 4–341
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2014 Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

Article – General Provisions

4–341.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, “GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY” MEANS A UNIT OR AN INSTRUMENTALITY OF THE STATE OR OF A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION.

(B) A CUSTODIAN SHALL DENY INSPECTION OF A DISTRIBUTION LIST AND A REQUEST TO BE ADDED TO A DISTRIBUTION LIST THAT IDENTIFIES A PHYSICAL ADDRESS, AN E-MAIL ADDRESS, OR A TELEPHONE NUMBER OF AN INDIVIDUAL THAT IS USED BY A GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY OR AN ELECTED OFFICIAL FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF:

(1) PERIODICALLY SENDING NEWS ABOUT THE OFFICIAL ACTIVITIES OF THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY OR ELECTED OFFICIAL; OR

(2) SENDING INFORMATIONAL NOTICES OR EMERGENCY ALERTS.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is enacted.

Approved by the Governor, April 10, 2018.