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**By: Senators Ruben and Boozer**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 1996

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Evidence - Voiceprints - Admissibility in Criminal Cases**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the admissibility of evidence of a voiceprint to prove or  
4 disprove the identification of a person's voice in a criminal proceeding; requiring a  
5 party seeking to introduce evidence of a voiceprint to provide, within certain time  
6 periods, the other party in the case with certain information; authorizing a court to  
7 grant a continuance in the case if a party fails to provide the information required  
8 under this Act; defining a certain term; and generally relating to the admissibility of  
9 voiceprint evidence in criminal cases.

10 BY adding to

11 Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings  
12 Section 10-918  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (1995 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

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

17 **Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

18 10-918.

19 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "VOICEPRINT" MEANS AN ANALYSIS OF THE PATTERNS  
20 OF A HUMAN VOICE USING GRAPHIC COMPARISONS GENERATED BY A  
21 SPECTROGRAPH AND RESULTING IN THE IDENTIFICATION OF AN INDIVIDUAL'S  
22 VOICE PATTERN.

23 (B) IN A CRIMINAL PROCEEDING, EVIDENCE OF A VOICEPRINT IS ADMISSIBLE  
24 TO PROVE OR DISPROVE THE IDENTIFICATION OF A PERSON'S VOICE, IF THE PARTY  
25 SEEKING TO INTRODUCE THE EVIDENCE OF A VOICEPRINT:

26 (1) AT LEAST 45 DAYS BEFORE ANY CRIMINAL PROCEEDING IN THE  
27 CASE, NOTIFIES THE OTHER PARTY IN WRITING OF THE INTENT TO INTRODUCE THE  
28 EVIDENCE; AND

29 (2) AT LEAST 30 DAYS BEFORE ANY CRIMINAL PROCEEDING IN THE  
30 CASE, IF REQUESTED IN WRITING, PROVIDES THE OTHER PARTY WITH:

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1 (I) DUPLICATES OF THE ACTUAL SPECTROGRAMS GENERATED;  
2 AND

3 (II) A STATEMENT DESCRIBING THE METHODOLOGY OF  
4 MEASURING THE VOICES ANALYZED.

5 (C) IF A PARTY FAILS TO PROVIDE THE INFORMATION REQUIRED UNDER  
6 SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION AT LEAST 30 DAYS PRIOR TO THE CRIMINAL  
7 PROCEEDINGS, THE COURT MAY GRANT A CONTINUANCE TO PERMIT TIMELY  
8 DISCLOSURE OF THE INFORMATION.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
10 October 1, 1996.