
**By: Delegate Taylor and Chairman, Judiciary Committee (Family Violence Council),
and Delegates Dewberry, Hurson, Arnick, Busch, Curran, Harrison, Hixson, Kopp,
Menes, Owings, and Rawlings**

Requested: October 28, 1996

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 1997

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Domestic Abuse - Duties of Law Enforcement Officers**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a law enforcement officer who responds to a request for
4 assistance from a person who alleges to have been a victim of domestic abuse and
5 who believes there is a danger of serious and immediate injury to himself or herself
6 to accompany the complainant to the family home so that the complainant may
7 remove any medicine or medical devices of the complainant and of any child in the
8 care of the complainant; and generally relating to domestic abuse and the duties of
9 law enforcement officers.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments
12 Section 798
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (1996 Replacement Volume)

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

17 **Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments**

18 798.

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

20 (2) "Abuse" has the meaning stated in § 4-501 of the Family Law Article.

21 (3) "Victim" includes a "person eligible for relief" as described in § 4-501 of
22 the Family Law Article.

23 (b) (1) Any person who alleges to have been a victim of abuse and who believes
24 there is a danger of serious and immediate injury to himself or herself may request the
25 assistance of a local law enforcement agency.

26 (2) A local law enforcement officer responding to the request for assistance
27 shall:

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1 (i) Protect the complainant from harm when responding to the
2 request; and

3 (ii) Accompany the complainant to the family home so that the
4 complainant may remove:

5 1. The personal clothing of the complainant and of any child in
6 the care of the complainant; [and]

7 2. The personal effects of the complainant and of any child in
8 the care of the complainant that are required for the immediate needs of the complainant
9 or the child; AND

10 3. ANY MEDICINE OR MEDICAL DEVICES OF THE
11 COMPLAINANT AND OF ANY CHILD IN THE CARE OF THE COMPLAINANT.

12 (c) Any law enforcement officer responding to such a request shall have the
13 immunity from liability described under § 5-326 of the Courts Article.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
15 October 1, 1997.