

---

**By: Delegate Boston (Baltimore City Administration)**

Introduced and read first time: February 21, 1997

Assigned to: Judiciary

---

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Crime Victims and Witnesses - Confidentiality of 911 Calls**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting the disclosure of certain information related to a person  
4 who calls certain emergency telephone systems for the purpose of reporting a  
5 firearms-related crime or drug-related crime; establishing certain exceptions;  
6 establishing certain penalties; and generally relating to the confidentiality of 911  
7 calls.

8 BY adding to

9 Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments  
10 Section 771  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (1996 Replacement Volume)

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

15 **Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments**

16 771.

17 (A) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE  
18 IDENTITY, ADDRESS, TELEPHONE NUMBER, OR RECORDED VOICE OF A PERSON  
19 WHO CALLS A 911 EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM, A 311 POLICE REPORTING  
20 TELEPHONE SYSTEM, OR A TELEPHONE NUMBER ESTABLISHED BY A LAW  
21 ENFORCEMENT AGENCY IS CONFIDENTIAL AND MAY NOT BE DISCLOSED IF THE  
22 PURPOSE OF THE CALL WAS TO REPORT A FIREARMS-RELATED CRIME OR  
23 DRUG-RELATED CRIME.

24 (B) THE INFORMATION DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION MAY  
25 BE RELEASED ONLY:

26 (1) TO A STATE'S ATTORNEY OR LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL  
27 INVOLVED IN INVESTIGATING OR PROSECUTING POSSIBLE CRIMINAL ACTIVITY  
28 RELATED TO THE CALL;

2

1                   (2) TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN THE RESPONSE  
2 TO A MEDICAL EMERGENCY OR OTHER NEED FOR ASSISTANCE REPORTED BY THE  
3 CALL;

4                   (3) WITH THE WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE PERSON WHO PLACED THE  
5 CALL;

6                   (4) IF A COURT WITH JURISDICTION OVER A CRIMINAL MATTER HAS  
7 DETERMINED THAT A FAILURE TO RELEASE THE INFORMATION WOULD DENY A  
8 RIGHT OF A DEFENDANT UNDER THE MARYLAND CONSTITUTION OR THE UNITED  
9 STATES CONSTITUTION TO THE DEFENDANT OR THE ATTORNEY OF THE  
10 DEFENDANT; OR

11                   (5) IF THE PERSON WHO PLACED THE CALL IS CHARGED WITH A CRIME  
12 AND THE CALL OR ITS CONTENT CONSTITUTE AN ELEMENT OF THE CRIME  
13 CHARGED.

14                   (C) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR  
15 AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$500 AND A TERM OF  
16 IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 90 DAYS OR BOTH.

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