
By: **Delegates Petzold, Anderson, Bronrott, Dumais, Dwyer, Kelly, King,
Madaleno, Mandel, McComas, McMillan, Menes, Quinter, Rosenberg,
Sophocleus, and Zirkin**

Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2006

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Civil Liability - AMBER Alert Dissemination - Immunity for Media**

3 FOR the purpose of exempting certain broadcasters and their agents from civil
4 liability for broadcasting or disseminating an AMBER alert after receiving a
5 certain notification under certain circumstances; defining certain terms; and
6 generally relating to the dissemination of an AMBER alert.

7 BY adding to
8 Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings
9 Section 5-427
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2002 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

14 **Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

15 5-427.

16 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
17 INDICATED.

18 (2) "AMBER ALERT" MEANS AN ALERT THAT A CHILD HAS BEEN
19 ABDUCTED AND IS IN DANGER, INCLUDING ALL KNOWN DETAILS SURROUNDING THE
20 CHILD'S ABDUCTION, ISSUED AS A RESULT OF THE VOLUNTARY AMBER ALERT
21 PROGRAM ENTERED INTO BY MARYLAND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND RADIO
22 AND TELEVISION BROADCAST ORGANIZATIONS.

23 (3) "BROADCASTER" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL OR ENTITY ENGAGED IN
24 THE BROADCASTING OF TELEVISION, CABLE, OR RADIO PROGRAMMING BY ANY
25 MEANS OF COMMUNICATION, INCLUDING:

26 (I) THROUGH THE PUBLIC AIRWAVES;

1 (II) BY CABLE; OR

2 (III) BY DIRECT OR INDIRECT SATELLITE TRANSMISSION.

3 (B) A BROADCASTER, OR AN EMPLOYEE, OFFICER, DIRECTOR, MEMBER,
4 MANAGER, OR AGENT OF A BROADCASTER, WHO IN GOOD FAITH BROADCASTS OR
5 OTHERWISE DISSEMINATES AN AMBER ALERT AFTER RECEIVING AN AMBER ALERT
6 NOTIFICATION FROM A MARYLAND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, SHALL BE IMMUNE
7 FROM CIVIL LIABILITY FOR ANY DAMAGES ARISING FROM THAT BROADCAST OR
8 DISSEMINATION.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
10 October 1, 2006.