
By: **Delegates Hubbard and Conroy**

Introduced and read first time: February 16, 2006

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Burglary and Robbery Alarm Systems - Response Verification -**
3 **Requirements**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring certain alarm system contractors to call certain persons
5 to attempt to verify whether a certain signal from certain alarms requires a
6 certain response except in certain circumstances; providing that certain
7 requirements do not apply to certain signals from certain alarm systems;
8 requiring certain local law enforcement units to establish certain standards for
9 a certain exemption from certain response verification requirements, issue a
10 certain written exemption, and maintain a certain list; authorizing certain law
11 enforcement units to issue a certain civil citation; establishing a certain penalty;
12 and generally relating to burglary and robbery alarm systems and the
13 requirements for response verification.

14 BY adding to

15 Article - Criminal Law

16 Section 9-608.1

17 Annotated Code of Maryland

18 (2002 Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

21 **Article - Criminal Law**

22 9-608.1.

23 (A) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION DO NOT APPLY TO ACTIVATED
24 SIGNALS FROM THE FOLLOWING ALARM SYSTEMS:

25 (1) DURESS ALARMS;

26 (2) HOLD-UP ALARMS;

27 (3) FIRE ALARMS; OR

1 (4) PERSONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEMS THAT DO NOT REQUIRE
2 A LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE.

3 (B) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, AN
4 ALARM SYSTEM CONTRACTOR SHALL ATTEMPT TO VERIFY THAT AN ACTIVATED
5 SIGNAL FROM A BURGLARY OR ROBBERY ALARM SYSTEM REQUIRES A LAW
6 ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE TO AN EMERGENCY SITUATION BY:

7 (I) CALLING THE ALARM USER AT THE SITE OF THE ALARM
8 SYSTEM WITH THE ACTIVATED SIGNAL; THEN

9 (II) IF NO CONTACT IS MADE WITH THE ALARM USER AT THE SITE
10 UNDER ITEM (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, CALLING THE TELEPHONE NUMBER PROVIDED
11 BY THE ALARM USER OF THE BACKUP INDIVIDUAL AUTHORIZED TO CANCEL A
12 RESPONSE.

13 (2) AN ALARM SYSTEM CONTRACTOR IS NOT REQUIRED TO CONTACT AN
14 ALARM USER WHO HAS OBTAINED A WRITTEN EXEMPTION FROM RESPONSE
15 VERIFICATION FROM THE LOCAL CHIEF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.

16 (C) EACH LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT UNIT SHALL:

17 (1) ESTABLISH STANDARDS FOR EXEMPTING AN ALARM USER FROM
18 THE RESPONSE VERIFICATION REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION;

19 (2) ISSUE A WRITTEN EXEMPTION FROM RESPONSE VERIFICATION,
20 SIGNED BY THE LOCAL CHIEF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, TO EACH ALARM USER
21 WHO MEETS THE STANDARDS ESTABLISHED UNDER ITEM (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION;
22 AND

23 (3) MAINTAIN A LIST OF THE ALARM USERS TO WHOM AN EXEMPTION IS
24 ISSUED.

25 (D) (1) A LAW ENFORCEMENT UNIT MAY ISSUE A CIVIL CITATION TO AN
26 ALARM SYSTEM CONTRACTOR FOR THE FAILURE OF THE ALARM SYSTEM
27 CONTRACTOR TO ATTEMPT TO VERIFY THE EMERGENCY STATUS OF AN ACTIVATED
28 SIGNAL FROM A BURGLARY OR ROBBERY ALARM SYSTEM AS REQUIRED UNDER
29 SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.

30 (2) A CIVIL CITATION ISSUED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL ASSESS A
31 PENALTY OF UP TO \$500 FOR EACH FAILURE TO ATTEMPT TO VERIFY THE
32 EMERGENCY STATUS OF AN ACTIVATED SIGNAL.

33 (3) THE LAW ENFORCEMENT UNIT SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION
34 AN ALARM SYSTEM CONTRACTOR'S ATTEMPTS TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF
35 THIS SECTION WHEN DETERMINING THE AMOUNT OF THE PENALTY ISSUED UNDER
36 THIS SUBSECTION.

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

