

# HOUSE BILL 1211

E4  
HB 1516/06 – ECM

71r3020

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By: **Delegate Hubbard**

Introduced and read first time: February 21, 2007

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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## 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 2006 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.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(A) THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION DO NOT APPLY TO ACTIVATED**  
2 **SIGNALS FROM THE FOLLOWING ALARM SYSTEMS:**

3                   **(1) DURESS ALARMS;**

4                   **(2) HOLD-UP ALARMS;**

5                   **(3) FIRE ALARMS; OR**

6                   **(4) PERSONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEMS THAT DO NOT**  
7 **REQUIRE A LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE.**

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

12                           **(I) CALLING THE ALARM USER AT THE SITE OF THE ALARM**  
13 **SYSTEM WITH THE ACTIVATED SIGNAL; THEN**

14                           **(II) IF NO CONTACT IS MADE WITH THE ALARM USER AT THE**  
15 **SITE UNDER ITEM (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, CALLING THE TELEPHONE NUMBER**  
16 **PROVIDED BY THE ALARM USER OF THE BACKUP INDIVIDUAL AUTHORIZED TO**  
17 **CANCEL A RESPONSE.**

18                   **(2) AN ALARM SYSTEM CONTRACTOR IS NOT REQUIRED TO**  
19 **CONTACT AN ALARM USER WHO HAS OBTAINED A WRITTEN EXEMPTION FROM**  
20 **RESPONSE VERIFICATION FROM THE LOCAL CHIEF LAW ENFORCEMENT**  
21 **OFFICER.**

22           **(C) EACH LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT UNIT SHALL:**

23                   **(1) ESTABLISH STANDARDS FOR EXEMPTING AN ALARM USER**  
24 **FROM THE RESPONSE VERIFICATION REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION;**

25                   **(2) ISSUE A WRITTEN EXEMPTION FROM RESPONSE**  
26 **VERIFICATION, SIGNED BY THE LOCAL CHIEF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, TO**

1 EACH ALARM USER WHO MEETS THE STANDARDS ESTABLISHED UNDER ITEM (1)  
2 OF THIS SUBSECTION; AND

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

5 (D) (1) A LAW ENFORCEMENT UNIT MAY ISSUE A CIVIL CITATION TO  
6 AN ALARM SYSTEM CONTRACTOR FOR THE FAILURE OF THE ALARM SYSTEM  
7 CONTRACTOR TO ATTEMPT TO VERIFY THE EMERGENCY STATUS OF AN  
8 ACTIVATED SIGNAL FROM A BURGLARY OR ROBBERY ALARM SYSTEM AS  
9 REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.

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

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

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
18 October 1, 2007.