

HOUSE BILL 1305

E4
HB 1211/07 – ECM

8lr2898

By: **Delegates Hubbard, Burns, Feldman, Haddaway, Harrison, Love, Manno, McHale, Minnick, and Taylor**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2008

Assigned to: Economic Matters

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 within a certain period of time to attempt to verify whether a certain signal
6 from certain alarms requires a certain response except in certain circumstances;
7 providing that certain requirements do not apply to certain signals from certain
8 alarm systems; authorizing certain local law enforcement units to establish
9 certain standards for a certain exemption from certain response verification
10 requirements, issue a certain written exemption, and maintain a certain list;
11 authorizing certain law enforcement units to issue a certain civil citation;
12 establishing a certain penalty; and generally relating to burglary and robbery
13 alarm systems and the 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 2007 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:**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (1) **DURESS ALARMS;**
2 (2) **HOLD-UP ALARMS;**
3 (3) **FIRE ALARMS; OR**
4 (4) **PERSONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE SYSTEMS THAT DO NOT**
5 **REQUIRE A LAW ENFORCEMENT RESPONSE.**

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

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

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

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

20 **(C) EACH LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT UNIT MAY:**

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

23 **(2) ISSUE A WRITTEN EXEMPTION FROM RESPONSE**
24 **VERIFICATION, SIGNED BY THE LOCAL CHIEF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OR**
25 **THE OFFICER'S DESIGNEE, TO EACH ALARM USER WHO MEETS THE STANDARDS**
26 **ESTABLISHED UNDER ITEM (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION; AND**

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

29 **(D) (1) A LAW ENFORCEMENT UNIT MAY ISSUE A CIVIL CITATION TO**
30 **AN ALARM SYSTEM CONTRACTOR FOR THE FAILURE OF THE ALARM SYSTEM**
31 **CONTRACTOR TO ATTEMPT TO VERIFY THE EMERGENCY STATUS OF AN**

1 **ACTIVATED SIGNAL FROM A BURGLARY OR ROBBERY ALARM SYSTEM AS**
2 **REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.**

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

6 **(3) THE LAW ENFORCEMENT UNIT SHALL TAKE INTO**
7 **CONSIDERATION AN ALARM SYSTEM CONTRACTOR'S ATTEMPTS TO COMPLY**
8 **WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION WHEN DETERMINING THE AMOUNT OF**
9 **THE PENALTY ISSUED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.**

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
11 October 1, 2008.