

SENATE BILL 413

D3
HB 496/07 – JUD

8lr2415
CF 8lr1726

By: **Senators Stone and Haines**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2008

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Courts – Service of Process – Motor Vehicle Administration as Agent for**
3 **Nonresident Driver**

4 FOR the purpose of designating the Motor Vehicle Administration as the agent for a
5 certain nonresident driver with regard to a subpoena, summons, or other
6 process issued in a certain action related to a certain motor vehicle accident
7 under certain circumstances; requiring the Administration to take certain
8 action, provide copies of certain documents on request, and keep certain records;
9 authorizing the Administration to establish and collect a certain fee;
10 authorizing the Administration to serve as an agent for service of certain papers
11 in certain circumstances; requiring a certain party seeking service of process on
12 a nonresident driver to provide a copy of a certain affidavit to the nonresident's
13 insurer; defining certain terms; providing for the application of this Act; and
14 generally relating to service of process on nonresident drivers under certain
15 circumstances.

16 BY adding to
17 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
18 Section 6–313
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

21 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
22 Article – Transportation
23 Section 11–135, 11–139, 11–140, and 12–104(a)
24 Annotated Code of Maryland
25 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

26 BY adding to
27 Article – Transportation
28 Section 12–104(f)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



Annotated Code of Maryland (2006 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

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

Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

6 6-313.

7 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE
8 MEANINGS INDICATED.

15 (B) BY EXERCISING A NONRESIDENT'S PRIVILEGE TO DRIVE A MOTOR
16 VEHICLE IN THE STATE, A NONRESIDENT IRREVOCABLY APPOINTS THE MOTOR
17 VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION AS AGENT TO RECEIVE A SUBPOENA, A SUMMONS,
18 OR OTHER PROCESS THAT IS:

19 (1) ISSUED IN AN ACTION THAT IS RELATED TO AN ACCIDENT OR
20 COLLISION INVOLVING A MOTOR VEHICLE DRIVEN BY THE NONRESIDENT
21 DRIVER AND IN WHICH THE NONRESIDENT DRIVER IS NAMED AS A PARTY; AND

22 (2) DIRECTED TO THE NONRESIDENT DRIVER.

23 (C) SERVICE OF PROCESS IS SUFFICIENT SERVICE ON A NONRESIDENT
24 DRIVER IF:

(3) THE MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION SENDS A COPY OF THE PROCESS BY CERTIFIED MAIL, RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED, TO THE NONRESIDENT DRIVER AT THE NONRESIDENT DRIVER'S LAST KNOWN ADDRESS; AND

(4) THE MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION FILES AN AFFIDAVIT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION WITH THE CLERK OF THE COURT IN WHICH THE ACTION IS PENDING.

(D) THE MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION SHALL PROVIDE A COPY OF THE AFFIDAVIT OF COMPLIANCE TO THE PARTY SEEKING SERVICE.

(E) THE PARTY SEEKING SERVICE SHALL SEND BY CERTIFIED MAIL, RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED, A COPY OF THE AFFIDAVIT OF COMPLIANCE TO THE AUTOMOBILE INSURER OF THE NONRESIDENT DRIVER.

(F) (1) THE MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION SHALL KEEP A RECORD OF ALL PROCESS SERVED UNDER THIS SECTION THAT SHOWS THE DATE AND HOUR OF SERVICE ON THE ADMINISTRATION BY THE PARTY SEEKING SERVICE.

(2) WHEN THE CERTIFIED RETURN RECEIPT IS RETURNED TO THE MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION, THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL:

(I) DELIVER IT TO THE PARTY SEEKING SERVICE; AND

(II) KEEP A RECORD OF THE DATE OF ITS RECEIPT AND THE DATE OF ITS DELIVERY TO THE PARTY SEEKING SERVICE.

(G) THE MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION IS AUTHORIZED TO ESTABLISH AND COLLECT A REASONABLE FEE TO RECOVER THE ADMINISTRATION'S COSTS UNDER THIS SECTION.

Article – Transportation

26 11-135.

27 (a) (1) “Motor vehicle” means, except as provided in subsection (b) of this
28 section, a vehicle that:

29 (i) Is self-propelled or propelled by electric power obtained
30 from overhead electrical wires; and

31 (ii) Is not operated on rails.

32 (2) "Motor vehicle" includes a low speed vehicle.

(b) "Motor vehicle" does not include:

(1) A moped, as defined in § 11-134.1 of this subtitle; or

(2) A motor scooter, as defined in § 11-134.5 of this subtitle.

4 11-139.

5 “Nonresident” means any person who is not a resident, as that term is defined
6 in this subtitle.

7 11-140.

8 “Nonresident’s privilege to drive” means the privilege granted to a nonresident
9 by the laws of this State to drive a motor vehicle in this State or to use in this State a
10 vehicle owned by the nonresident.

11 12-104.

14 (F) IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 6-313 OF THE COURTS ARTICLE AND THE
15 MARYLAND RULES, THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL SERVE AS THE AGENT TO
16 RECEIVE A SUBPOENA, A SUMMONS, OR OTHER PROCESS FOR A NONRESIDENT
17 DRIVER NAMED AS A PARTY IN AN ACTION BROUGHT IN A COURT OF THIS STATE.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be
19 construed to apply only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have
20 any effect on or application to any case filed before the effective date of this Act.

21 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
22 October 1, 2008.