

# SENATE BILL 531

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8lr1547

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By: **Senators Muse and Forehand**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2008

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 13, 2008

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Courts – Immunity from Liability – Leaving Unharmed Newborn – Time**  
3 **Period**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the time period within which a person may leave an  
5 unharmed newborn with a responsible adult and be immune from civil liability  
6 or criminal prosecution for the act; and generally relating to immunity from  
7 liability for leaving an unharmed newborn with a responsible adult.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings  
10 Section 5–641(a)  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

16 5–641.

17 (a) (1) A person who leaves an unharmed newborn with a responsible  
18 adult within [3] 10 days after the birth of the newborn, as determined within a  
19 reasonable degree of medical certainty, and does not express an intent to return for  
20 the newborn shall be immune from civil liability or criminal prosecution for the act.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1                   (2)    If the person leaving a newborn under this subsection is not the  
2 mother of the newborn, the person shall have the approval of the mother to do so.

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

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.