

# HOUSE BILL 302

D4, E4

9lr0211  
CF SB 268

---

By: **The Speaker (By Request – Administration) and Delegates Barnes, Bronrott, Doory, Dumais, Frick, Guzzone, Lee, Levi, Rosenberg, and Vaughn**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2009

Assigned to: Judiciary

---

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Family Law – Temporary Protective Orders – Surrender of Firearms**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing a judge in entering a temporary protective order to  
4 order a certain person to surrender to law enforcement authorities any firearm  
5 in the person's possession for a certain period of time; requiring a law  
6 enforcement officer to provide certain information to a respondent when a  
7 firearm is surrendered and to provide for the safe storage of the firearm;  
8 providing for the retaking of surrendered firearms by the respondent under  
9 certain circumstances; making it a misdemeanor subject to certain penalties to  
10 fail to comply with a certain order to surrender firearms; and generally relating  
11 to protective orders and surrender of firearms.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Article – Family Law  
14 Section 4–505 and 4–509  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

17 BY adding to  
18 Article – Family Law  
19 Section 4–506.1  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

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

24 **Article – Family Law**

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 4-505.

2 (a) (1) If, after a hearing on a petition, whether ex parte or otherwise, a  
3 judge finds that there are reasonable grounds to believe that a person eligible for relief  
4 has been abused, the judge may enter a temporary protective order to protect any  
5 person eligible for relief from abuse.

6 (2) The temporary protective order may order any or all of the  
7 following relief:

8 (i) order the respondent to refrain from further abuse or threats  
9 of abuse of a person eligible for relief;

10 (ii) order the respondent to refrain from contacting, attempting  
11 to contact, or harassing any person eligible for relief;

12 (iii) order the respondent to refrain from entering the residence  
13 of a person eligible for relief;

14 (iv) where the person eligible for relief and the respondent are  
15 residing together at the time of the alleged abuse, order the respondent to vacate the  
16 home immediately and award temporary use and possession of the home to the person  
17 eligible for relief or in the case of alleged abuse of a child or alleged abuse of a  
18 vulnerable adult, award temporary use and possession of the home to an adult living  
19 in the home, provided that the court may not grant an order to vacate and award  
20 temporary use and possession of the home to a nonspouse person eligible for relief  
21 unless the name of the person eligible for relief appears on the lease or deed to the  
22 home or the person eligible for relief has resided in the home with the respondent for a  
23 period of at least 90 days within 1 year before the filing of the petition;

24 (v) order the respondent to remain away from the place of  
25 employment, school, or temporary residence of a person eligible for relief or home of  
26 other family members;

27 (vi) order the respondent to remain away from a child care  
28 provider of a person eligible for relief while a child of the person is in the care of the  
29 child care provider; [and]

30 (vii) award temporary custody of a minor child of the person  
31 eligible for relief and the respondent; **AND**

32 **(VIII) ORDER THE RESPONDENT TO SURRENDER TO LAW**  
33 **ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES ANY FIREARM IN THE RESPONDENT'S POSSESSION**  
34 **FOR THE DURATION OF THE TEMPORARY PROTECTIVE ORDER.**

1 (b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a law  
2 enforcement officer immediately shall serve the temporary protective order on the  
3 alleged abuser under this section.

4 (2) A respondent who has been served with an interim protective order  
5 under § 4–504.1 of this subtitle shall be served with the temporary protective order in  
6 open court or, if the respondent is not present at the temporary protective order  
7 hearing, by first–class mail at the respondent’s last known address.

8 (3) There shall be no cost to the petitioner for service of the temporary  
9 protective order.

10 (c) (1) The temporary protective order shall be effective for not more than  
11 7 days after service of the order.

12 (2) The judge may extend the temporary protective order as needed,  
13 but not to exceed 30 days, to effectuate service of the order where necessary to provide  
14 protection or for other good cause.

15 (d) The judge may proceed with a final protective order hearing instead of a  
16 temporary protective order hearing, if:

17 (1) (i) the respondent appears at the hearing;

18 (ii) the respondent has been served with an interim protective  
19 order; or

20 (iii) the court otherwise has personal jurisdiction over the  
21 respondent; and

22 (2) the petitioner and the respondent expressly consent to waive the  
23 temporary protective order hearing.

24 (e) (1) Whenever a judge finds reasonable grounds to believe that abuse of  
25 a child, as defined in Title 5, Subtitle 7 of this article, or abuse of a vulnerable adult,  
26 as defined in Title 14, Subtitle 1 of this article, has occurred, the court shall forward to  
27 the local department a copy of the petition and temporary protective order.

28 (2) Whenever a local department receives a petition and temporary  
29 protective order from a court, the local department shall:

30 (i) investigate the alleged abuse as provided in:

31 1. Title 5, Subtitle 7 of this article; or

32 2. Title 14, Subtitle 3 of this article; and

1 (ii) by the date of the final protective order hearing, send to the  
2 court a copy of the report of the investigation.

3 **4-506.1.**

4 (A) IF A RESPONDENT SURRENDERS A FIREARM UNDER § 4-505 OR §  
5 4-506 OF THIS SUBTITLE, A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER SHALL:

6 (1) PROVIDE TO THE RESPONDENT INFORMATION ON THE  
7 PROCESS FOR RETAKING POSSESSION OF THE FIREARM; AND

8 (2) PROVIDE FOR THE SAFE STORAGE OF THE FIREARM DURING  
9 THE TIME THE PROTECTIVE ORDER IS IN EFFECT.

10 (B) (1) THE RESPONDENT MAY RETAKE POSSESSION OF THE  
11 FIREARM AT THE EXPIRATION OF A TEMPORARY PROTECTIVE ORDER UNLESS:

12 (I) THE RESPONDENT IS ORDERED TO SURRENDER THE  
13 FIREARM IN A PROTECTIVE ORDER ISSUED UNDER § 4-506 OF THIS SUBTITLE;  
14 OR

15 (II) THE RESPONDENT IS NOT OTHERWISE LEGALLY  
16 ENTITLED TO OWN OR POSSESS THE FIREARM.

17 (2) THE RESPONDENT MAY RETAKE POSSESSION OF THE  
18 FIREARM AT THE EXPIRATION OF A FINAL PROTECTIVE ORDER UNLESS:

19 (I) THE PROTECTIVE ORDER IS EXTENDED UNDER §  
20 4-507(A)(2) OF THIS SUBTITLE; OR

21 (II) THE RESPONDENT IS NOT OTHERWISE LEGALLY  
22 ENTITLED TO OWN OR POSSESS THE FIREARM.

23 **4-509.**

24 (a) A person who fails to comply with the relief granted in an interim  
25 protective order under § 4-504.1(c)(1), (2), (3), (4)(i), (7), or (8) of this subtitle, a  
26 temporary protective order under § 4-505(a)(2)(i), (ii), (iii), (iv), or (v), OR (VIII) of this  
27 subtitle, or a final protective order under § 4-506(d)(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), or (12) of this  
28 subtitle is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject, for each offense, to:

29 (1) for a first offense, a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or imprisonment not  
30 exceeding 90 days or both; and

1                   (2)     for a second or subsequent offense, a fine not exceeding \$2,500 or  
2 imprisonment not exceeding 1 year or both.

3                   (b)     An officer shall arrest with or without a warrant and take into custody a  
4 person who the officer has probable cause to believe is in violation of an interim,  
5 temporary, or final protective order in effect at the time of the violation.

6                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
7 October 1, 2009.