

SENATE BILL 144

D4
SB 42/08 – JPR

9lr0610

By: **Senators Frosh, Brochin, Forehand, Muse, and Raskin**

Introduced and read first time: January 19, 2009

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Family Law – 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 in accordance with a temporary or final protective order
8 and to provide for the safe storage of the firearm; providing for the retaking of
9 surrendered firearms by the respondent under certain circumstances; and
10 generally relating to protective orders and surrender of firearms.

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

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

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

23 **Article – Family Law**

24 4–505.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- (1) (i) the respondent appears at the hearing;
- (ii) the respondent has been served with an interim protective order; or
- (iii) the court otherwise has personal jurisdiction over the respondent; and

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

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

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

- (i) investigate the alleged abuse as provided in:
 - 1. Title 5, Subtitle 7 of this article; or
 - 2. Title 14, Subtitle 3 of this article; and
- (ii) by the date of the final protective order hearing, send to the court a copy of the report of the investigation.

4–506.1.

1 **(A) IF A RESPONDENT SURRENDERS A FIREARM IN ACCORDANCE WITH**
2 **AN ORDER ISSUED UNDER § 4-505 OR § 4-506 OF THIS SUBTITLE, A LAW**
3 **ENFORCEMENT OFFICER SHALL:**

4 **(1) PROVIDE TO THE RESPONDENT INFORMATION ON THE**
5 **PROCESS FOR RETAKING POSSESSION OF THE FIREARM; AND**

6 **(2) PROVIDE FOR THE SAFE STORAGE OF THE FIREARM DURING**
7 **THE TIME THE PROTECTIVE ORDER IS IN EFFECT.**

8 **(B) (1) THE RESPONDENT MAY RETAKE POSSESSION OF THE**
9 **FIREARM AT THE EXPIRATION OF A TEMPORARY PROTECTIVE ORDER UNLESS:**

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

13 **(II) THE RESPONDENT IS NOT OTHERWISE LEGALLY**
14 **ENTITLED TO OWN OR POSSESS THE FIREARM.**

15 **(2) THE RESPONDENT MAY RETAKE POSSESSION OF THE**
16 **FIREARM AT THE EXPIRATION OF A FINAL PROTECTIVE ORDER UNLESS:**

17 **(I) THE PROTECTIVE ORDER IS EXTENDED UNDER §**
18 **4-507(A)(2) OF THIS SUBTITLE; OR**

19 **(II) THE RESPONDENT IS NOT OTHERWISE LEGALLY**
20 **ENTITLED TO OWN OR POSSESS THE FIREARM.**

21 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect**
22 **October 1, 2009.**