

# SENATE BILL 375

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9lr1886  
CF HB 286

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By: **Senator Middleton**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2009

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Procedure – Reports to “Crime Stoppers” Organization –**  
3 **Inadmissibility and Confidentiality**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing that evidence of a communication or information  
5 contained in the communication between an individual reporting alleged  
6 criminal activity to a certain “Crime Stoppers” organization and the individual  
7 who accepts the report on behalf of the organization is not admissible in a court  
8 proceeding; establishing that a law enforcement agency that receives  
9 information concerning alleged criminal activity from a certain “Crime  
10 Stoppers” organization may not disclose the identity of an individual providing  
11 information about the criminal activity under a promise of anonymity; defining  
12 a certain term; and generally relating to crime reporting.

13 BY adding to

14 Article – Criminal Procedure

15 Section 11–1101 through 11–1103 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 11.  
16 Anonymous Crime Reporting”

17 Annotated Code of Maryland

18 (2008 Replacement Volume)

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

21 **Article – Criminal Procedure**

22 **SUBTITLE 11. ANONYMOUS CRIME REPORTING.**

23 **11–1101.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1       IN THIS SUBTITLE, "CRIME STOPPERS ORGANIZATION" MEANS A  
2 PRIVATE, NONPROFIT MARYLAND CORPORATION GOVERNED BY A CIVILIAN  
3 VOLUNTEER BOARD OF DIRECTORS OPERATED ON A LOCAL OR STATEWIDE  
4 LEVEL THAT:

5               (1) OFFERS ANONYMITY TO AN INDIVIDUAL PROVIDING  
6 INFORMATION TO THE CORPORATION;

7               (2) ACCEPTS AND EXPENDS DONATIONS FOR CASH REWARDS TO  
8 INDIVIDUALS WHO REPORT TO THE CORPORATION INFORMATION ABOUT  
9 ALLEGED CRIMINAL ACTIVITY THAT THE CORPORATION FORWARDS TO  
10 APPROPRIATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES; AND

11              (3) IS ESTABLISHED AS PART OF A COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE  
12 BETWEEN THE NEWS MEDIA, THE COMMUNITY, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT  
13 OFFICIALS.

14   **11-1102.**

15       EVIDENCE OF A COMMUNICATION OR INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE  
16 COMMUNICATION BETWEEN AN INDIVIDUAL REPORTING ALLEGED CRIMINAL  
17 ACTIVITY TO A CRIME STOPPERS ORGANIZATION AND THE INDIVIDUAL WHO  
18 ACCEPTS THE REPORT ON BEHALF OF THE CRIME STOPPERS ORGANIZATION IS  
19 NOT ADMISSIBLE IN A COURT PROCEEDING.

20   **11-1103.**

21       A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY THAT RECEIVES INFORMATION  
22 CONCERNING ALLEGED CRIMINAL ACTIVITY FROM A CRIME STOPPERS  
23 ORGANIZATION MAY NOT DISCLOSE THE IDENTITY OF AN INDIVIDUAL WHO  
24 PROVIDED TO THE CRIME STOPPERS ORGANIZATION INFORMATION ABOUT THE  
25 CRIMINAL ACTIVITY UNDER A PROMISE OF ANONYMITY.

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