

# SENATE BILL 900

D4  
SB 960/16 – JPR

7lr3538  
CF HB 803

---

By: **Senators Peters, Muse, and Smith**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2017

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings and Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

---

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Domestic Violence – Education and Definition of Abuse**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Board of Education to encourage county boards of  
4 education to incorporate age-appropriate lessons on domestic violence into a certain  
5 curriculum; altering the definition of “abuse” for purposes of certain provisions of law  
6 relating to domestic violence to include harassment and malicious destruction of  
7 property; defining certain terms; and generally relating to domestic violence.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

9 Article – Education

10 Section 7–411.1

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

14 Article – Family Law

15 Section 4–501

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

19 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article – Education**

21 7–411.1.

22 (a) The State Board shall encourage the county boards to incorporate  
23 age-appropriate lessons on dating violence, **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**, diabetes and its

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 treatment and prevention, oral disease prevention, and dental health promotion into the  
2 county boards' health education curriculum.

3 (b) On or before December 1, 2015, and every 5 years thereafter, the Department  
4 shall report to the Governor and, subject to § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, to  
5 the General Assembly a summary of the information reported to the State Superintendent  
6 during the COMAR certification process.

## 7 Article – Family Law

8 4–501.

9 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

10 (b) (1) “Abuse” means any of the following acts:

11 (i) an act that causes serious bodily harm;

12 (ii) an act that places a person eligible for relief in fear of imminent  
13 serious bodily harm;

14 (iii) assault in any degree;

15 (iv) rape or sexual offense under §§ 3–303 through 3–308 of the  
16 Criminal Law Article or attempted rape or sexual offense in any degree;

17 (v) false imprisonment; [or]

18 (vi) stalking under § 3–802 of the Criminal Law Article;

19 **(VII) HARASSMENT; OR**

20 **(VIII) MALICIOUS DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY.**

21 (2) If the person for whom relief is sought is a child, “abuse” may also  
22 include abuse of a child, as defined in Title 5, Subtitle 7 of this article. Nothing in this  
23 subtitle shall be construed to prohibit reasonable punishment, including reasonable  
24 corporal punishment, in light of the age and condition of the child, from being performed  
25 by a parent or stepparent of the child.

26 (3) If the person for whom relief is sought is a vulnerable adult, “abuse”  
27 may also include abuse of a vulnerable adult, as defined in Title 14, Subtitle 1 of this article.

28 (c) “Child care provider” means a person that provides supervision and care for a  
29 minor child.

1 (d) "Cohabitant" means a person who has had a sexual relationship with the  
2 respondent and resided with the respondent in the home for a period of at least 90 days  
3 within 1 year before the filing of the petition.

4 (e) "Commissioner" means a District Court Commissioner appointed in  
5 accordance with Article IV, § 41G of the Maryland Constitution.

6 (f) "Court" means the District Court or a circuit court in this State.

7 (g) "Emergency family maintenance" means a monetary award given to or for a  
8 person eligible for relief to whom the respondent has a duty of support under this article  
9 based on:

10 (1) the financial needs of the person eligible for relief; and

11 (2) the resources available to the person eligible for relief and the  
12 respondent.

13 (h) "Executive Director" means the Executive Director of the Governor's Office of  
14 Crime Control and Prevention.

15 (i) "Final protective order" means a protective order issued under § 4-506 of this  
16 subtitle.

17 **(J) "HARASSMENT" MEANS AN INTENTIONAL OR KNOWING COURSE OF**  
18 **CONDUCT OR A SERIES OF ACTS, INCLUDING WRITTEN OR ELECTRONIC**  
19 **COMMUNICATION OR TRANSMISSION, THAT CONTINUES AFTER A REASONABLE**  
20 **WARNING OR REQUEST TO STOP BY OR ON BEHALF OF ANOTHER PERSON AND THAT:**

21 **(1) SERIOUSLY ALARMS, TORMENTS, TERRORIZES, OR DISTURBS**  
22 **ANOTHER PERSON;**

23 **(2) HAS NO LEGAL PURPOSE; AND**

24 **(3) WOULD CAUSE A REASONABLE PERSON TO SUFFER MENTAL OR**  
25 **EMOTIONAL DISTRESS.**

26 **[(j)] (K)** "Home" means the property in this State that:

27 (1) is the principal residence of a person eligible for relief; and

28 (2) is owned, rented, or leased by the person eligible for relief or respondent  
29 or, in a petition alleging child abuse or abuse of a vulnerable adult, an adult living in the  
30 home at the time of a proceeding under this subtitle.

1           **[(k)] (L)**     “Interim protective order” means an order that a Commissioner issues  
2 under this subtitle pending a hearing by a judge on a petition.

3           **[(l)] (M)**     “Local department” means the local department that has jurisdiction in  
4 the county:

5                   (1)     where the home is located; or

6                   (2)     if different, where the abuse is alleged to have taken place.

7           **(N) “MALICIOUS DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY” MEANS AN ACT THAT**  
8 **WILLFULLY DESTROYS, INJURES, OR DEFACES THE REAL OR PERSONAL PROPERTY**  
9 **OF ANOTHER, INCLUDING A PERMANENT DRAWING, PAINTING, MARKING, OR**  
10 **INSCRIPTION, EVEN IF THE PROPERTY IS HELD AS TENANTS BY THE ENTIRETY.**

11           **[(m)] (O)**     “Person eligible for relief” includes:

12                   (1)     the current or former spouse of the respondent;

13                   (2)     a cohabitant of the respondent;

14                   (3)     a person related to the respondent by blood, marriage, or adoption;

15                   (4)     a parent, stepparent, child, or stepchild of the respondent or the person  
16 eligible for relief who resides or resided with the respondent or person eligible for relief for  
17 at least 90 days within 1 year before the filing of the petition;

18                   (5)     a vulnerable adult;

19                   (6)     an individual who has a child in common with the respondent; or

20                   (7)     an individual who has had a sexual relationship with the respondent  
21 within 1 year before the filing of the petition.

22           **[(n)] (P)**     (1)     “Pet” means a domesticated animal.

23                   (2)     “Pet” does not include livestock.

24           **[(o)] (Q)**     (1)     “Petitioner” means an individual who files a petition.

25                   (2)     “Petitioner” includes:

26                           (i)     a person eligible for relief; or

27                           (ii)    the following persons who may seek relief from abuse on behalf  
28 of a minor or vulnerable adult:

1                   1.     the State’s Attorney for the county where the child or  
2 vulnerable adult lives, or, if different, where the abuse is alleged to have taken place;

3                   2.     the department of social services that has jurisdiction in  
4 the county where the child or vulnerable adult lives, or, if different, where the abuse is  
5 alleged to have taken place;

6                   3.     a person related to the child or vulnerable adult by blood,  
7 marriage, or adoption; or

8                   4.     an adult who resides in the home.

9           **[(p)] (R)**     “Residence” includes the yard, grounds, outbuildings, and common  
10 areas surrounding the residence.

11           **[(q)] (S)**     “Respondent” means the person alleged in the petition to have  
12 committed the abuse.

13           **[(r)] (T)**     “Temporary protective order” means a protective order issued under §  
14 4–505 of this subtitle.

15           **[(s)] (U)**     “Victim” includes a person eligible for relief.

16           **[(t)] (V)**     “Vulnerable adult” has the meaning provided in § 14–101(q) of this  
17 article.

18           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
19 October 1, 2017.