

HOUSE BILL 372

D3, E3
HB 1125/18 – JUD

9lr1420
CF 9lr2429

By: **Delegates W. Fisher, B. Barnes, Cardin, Charles, Crosby, Dumais, Fennell, Hettleman, Ivey, Lehman, J. Lewis, Shetty, Valentino-Smith, Washington, R. Watson, and Wilkins**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2019

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Evidence – Chain of Custody of DNA**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing that a certain report signed by a certain individual is
4 prima facie evidence of certain matters for a certain purpose under certain
5 circumstances; providing that a certain DNA profile may be established without the
6 necessity for a certain individual to personally appear in court under certain
7 circumstances; providing that certain provisions of law do not preclude the right of
8 any party to introduce any evidence supporting or contradicting certain evidence or
9 presumptions; providing that a certain statement is prima facie evidence that a
10 certain person had custody and made a certain delivery for a certain purpose;
11 requiring a certain statement to contain a certain description of certain material and
12 to state that certain material was delivered in a certain condition; authorizing a
13 certain statement to be placed on a certain document; requiring the prosecution, in
14 a criminal proceeding, to require the presence of a DNA analyst or other person as a
15 certain witness under certain circumstances; providing that certain provisions of law
16 do not apply to certain testimony; providing that certain provisions of law are
17 applicable in a criminal proceeding only under certain circumstances; providing that
18 certain provisions of law do not prevent a certain defendant from summoning a
19 certain witness; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the chain of custody
20 of DNA evidence.

21 BY adding to

22 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

23 Section 10–1007 through 10–1010 to be under the new part “Part III. DNA Evidence”

24 Annotated Code of Maryland

25 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

2 10-1005. RESERVED.

3 10-1006. RESERVED.

4 PART III. DNA EVIDENCE.

5 10-1007.

6 (A) IN THIS PART THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
7 INDICATED.

8 (B) “CHAIN OF CUSTODY” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 10-1002 OF THIS
9 SUBTITLE.

10 (C) “DEOXYRIBONUCLEIC ACID” OR “DNA” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN §
11 10-915 OF THIS TITLE.

12 (D) “DNA ANALYST” MEANS A CHEMIST OR AN ANALYST WHO PERFORMS A
13 TEST OR TESTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING A DNA PROFILE.

14 (E) “DNA PROFILE” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 10-915 OF THIS TITLE.

15 10-1008.

16 (A) FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING A DNA PROFILE IN A CRIMINAL
17 OR CIVIL PROCEEDING, A REPORT SIGNED BY THE DNA ANALYST WHO PERFORMED
18 THE TEST OR TESTS AS TO ITS NATURE IS PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE THAT THE
19 MATERIAL DELIVERED TO THE DNA ANALYST WAS PROPERLY TESTED UNDER
20 PROCEDURES APPROVED BY THE SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP ON DNA ANALYSIS
21 METHODS OR CONSISTENT WITH THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION’S
22 QUALITY ASSURANCE STANDARDS FOR FORENSIC DNA TESTING LABORATORIES
23 AND DNA DATABASING LABORATORIES, THAT THOSE PROCEDURES ARE LEGALLY
24 RELIABLE, THAT THE MATERIAL WAS DELIVERED TO THE DNA ANALYST BY THE
25 OFFICER OR PERSON STATED IN THE REPORT, AND THAT THE MATERIAL WAS OR
26 CONTAINED THE SUBSTANCE STATED IN THE REPORT, IF THE REPORT:

27 (1) IDENTIFIES THE DNA ANALYST AS AN INDIVIDUAL QUALIFIED
28 UNDER STANDARDS APPROVED BY THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO
29 ANALYZE DNA;

30 (2) STATES THAT THE DNA ANALYST MADE AN ANALYSIS OF THE

1 MATERIAL UNDER PROCEDURES APPROVED BY THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF
2 HEALTH; AND

3 (3) STATES THAT THE SUBSTANCE, IN THE OPINION OF THE DNA
4 ANALYST, IS OR CONTAINS THE PARTICULAR DNA PROFILE SPECIFIED.

5 (B) IF THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (A) ARE FULFILLED, A DNA
6 PROFILE MAY BE ESTABLISHED WITHOUT THE NECESSITY FOR THE DNA ANALYST
7 TO PERSONALLY APPEAR IN COURT.

8 (C) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION PRECLUDES THE RIGHT OF ANY PARTY TO
9 INTRODUCE ANY EVIDENCE SUPPORTING OR CONTRADICTING THE EVIDENCE
10 CONTAINED IN OR THE PRESUMPTIONS RAISED BY THE REPORT.

11 **10-1009.**

12 (A) FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING, IN A CRIMINAL OR CIVIL
13 PROCEEDING, A STATEMENT SIGNED BY EACH SUCCESSIVE PERSON IN THE CHAIN
14 OF PHYSICAL CUSTODY OR CONTROL OF EVIDENCE CONSISTING OF OR CONTAINING
15 A SUBSTANCE TESTED OR ANALYZED TO DETERMINE A DNA PROFILE, THAT THE
16 PERSON DELIVERED IT TO THE OTHER PERSON INDICATED ON OR ABOUT THE DATE
17 STATED IS PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE THAT THE PERSON HAD CUSTODY AND MADE THE
18 DELIVERY AS STATED, WITHOUT THE NECESSITY OF A PERSONAL APPEARANCE IN
19 COURT BY THE PERSON SIGNING THE STATEMENT.

20 (B) THE STATEMENT SHALL CONTAIN A SUFFICIENT DESCRIPTION OF THE
21 MATERIAL OR ITS CONTAINER SO AS TO DISTINGUISH IT AS THE PARTICULAR ITEM
22 IN QUESTION AND SHALL STATE THAT THE MATERIAL WAS DELIVERED IN
23 ESSENTIALLY THE SAME CONDITION AS RECEIVED.

24 (C) THE STATEMENT MAY BE PLACED ON THE SAME DOCUMENT AS THE
25 REPORT PROVIDED FOR UNDER § 10-1008 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

26 (D) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION PRECLUDES THE RIGHT OF ANY PARTY TO
27 INTRODUCE ANY EVIDENCE SUPPORTING OR CONTRADICTING THE EVIDENCE
28 CONTAINED IN OR THE PRESUMPTION RAISED BY THE STATEMENT.

29 **10-1010.**

30 (A) (1) IN A CRIMINAL PROCEEDING, THE PROSECUTION SHALL, ON
31 WRITTEN DEMAND OF A DEFENDANT FILED IN THE PROCEEDINGS AT LEAST 10 DAYS
32 PRIOR TO A TRIAL IN THE PROCEEDING, REQUIRE THE PRESENCE OF THE DNA
33 ANALYST OR ANY PERSON IN THE CHAIN OF CUSTODY AS A PROSECUTION WITNESS.

1 **(2) THE PROVISIONS OF §§ 10–1008 AND 10–1009 OF THIS SUBTITLE**
2 **CONCERNING PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE DO NOT APPLY TO THE TESTIMONY OF THAT**
3 **WITNESS.**

4 **(3) THE PROVISIONS OF §§ 10–1008 AND 10–1009 OF THIS SUBTITLE**
5 **ARE APPLICABLE IN A CRIMINAL PROCEEDING ONLY WHEN A COPY OF THE REPORT**
6 **OR STATEMENT TO BE INTRODUCED IS MAILED, DELIVERED, OR MADE AVAILABLE**
7 **TO COUNSEL FOR THE DEFENDANT, OR TO THE DEFENDANT PERSONALLY WHEN THE**
8 **DEFENDANT IS NOT REPRESENTED BY COUNSEL, AT LEAST 30 DAYS PRIOR TO THE**
9 **INTRODUCTION OF THE REPORT OR STATEMENT AT TRIAL.**

10 **(B) NOTHING CONTAINED IN THIS PART SHALL PREVENT THE DEFENDANT**
11 **FROM SUMMONING A WITNESS MENTIONED IN THIS PART AS A WITNESS FOR THE**
12 **DEFENSE.**

13 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
14 October 1, 2019.