

# HOUSE BILL 502

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By: **Delegate Crutchfield**

Introduced and read first time: January 15, 2021

Assigned to: Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Office of the State's Attorney – Collection and Publication of Prosecutorial**  
3 **Information**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring each Office of the State's Attorney in each county and  
5 Baltimore City to collect and disclose certain information to the Governor's Office of  
6 Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services; requiring the State's Attorneys to  
7 record and maintain certain information collected for a certain period of time;  
8 requiring each State's Attorney to collect and publish certain information on the  
9 website for each office; requiring the State's Attorneys to affirmatively disclose a  
10 certain fact if certain policies are not maintained; requiring the State's Attorneys to  
11 redact or replace with an anonymizing identifier certain information; requiring the  
12 State's Attorneys to begin making certain information available on or before a  
13 certain date; requiring the State's Attorneys to publish certain information on a  
14 certain website; requiring the State's Attorneys to provide certain information to  
15 certain persons; requiring the Office to determine the manner in which the State's  
16 Attorneys disclose certain information; requiring the Office to determine a schedule  
17 and plan in which the State's Attorneys will report certain information on or before  
18 a certain date; authorizing the Office to implement a certain schedule and plan in a  
19 certain manner; requiring each State's Attorney to begin disclosing certain data to  
20 the Office on or before a certain date; requiring the State's Attorney to complete the  
21 transmission of certain data on or before a certain date; requiring the Office to begin  
22 publishing online certain information in a certain manner on or before a certain date  
23 each year; prohibiting certain data published online from containing certain  
24 individualized or personal information; requiring the Office to issue reports on  
25 certain data in a certain manner; authorizing, under certain circumstances, the  
26 State's Attorneys to satisfy a request for information under the Maryland Public  
27 Information Act (MPIA) by referring the requestor to a certain website; authorizing  
28 a certain requestor of information under the MPIA to seek judicial review under  
29 certain circumstances; making the provisions of this Act severable; defining certain  
30 terms; and generally relating to the Office of the State's Attorney and the collection  
31 and publication of information.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 BY adding to  
2 Article – Criminal Procedure  
3 Section 15–501 through 15–506 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 5. State’s  
4 Attorney’s Data Collection”  
5 Annotated Code of Maryland  
6 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

9 **Article – Criminal Procedure**

10 **SUBTITLE 5. STATE’S ATTORNEY’S DATA COLLECTION.**

11 **15–501.**

12 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
13 INDICATED.

14 (B) “CASE NUMBER” MEANS THE UNIQUE NUMBER ASSIGNED TO A  
15 CRIMINAL CASE ASSOCIATED WITH A PARTICULAR CRIMINAL CHARGE.

16 (C) “CHARGE” MEANS AN ACCUSATION OF A CRIME BY A STATE’S ATTORNEY  
17 INITIATED BY A TICKET, A COMPLAINT, OR ANY OTHER CHARGING DOCUMENT.

18 (D) “CHARGE DESCRIPTION” MEANS:

19 (1) THE NAME OF THE CHARGE AS PROVIDED BY LAW;

20 (2) A STATEMENT OF THE CONDUCT THAT IS ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN  
21 VIOLATED;

22 (3) THE ASSOCIATED STATUTORY SECTION ESTABLISHING THE  
23 ALLEGED CONDUCT AS CRIMINAL; AND

24 (4) THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE CRIME.

25 (E) “CHARGE IDENTIFICATION” MEANS THE UNIQUE IDENTIFICATION  
26 NUMBER ASSIGNED TO THE CHARGE.

27 (F) “CHARGE MODIFIER” MEANS AN AGGRAVATING OR MITIGATING  
28 CIRCUMSTANCE OF AN ALLEGED CHARGE THAT ENHANCES, REDUCES, OR  
29 RECLASSIFIES THE ALLEGED CHARGE TO A DIFFERENT CLASSIFICATION GRADE OR

1 LEVEL.

2 (G) "DISPOSITION" MEANS THE CONCLUSION OF THE PROSECUTION OF A  
3 CHARGE, INCLUDING:

4 (1) NOLLE PROSEQUI;

5 (2) DIVERSION;

6 (3) DISMISSAL;

7 (4) DISMISSAL AS PART OF A PLEA BARGAIN;

8 (5) CONVICTION AS PART OF A PLEA BARGAIN;

9 (6) CONVICTION AT TRIAL; AND

10 (7) ACQUITTAL.

11 (H) "INITIATION" MEANS THE CREATION OR INSTITUTION OF A CHARGE  
12 AGAINST A CRIMINAL DEFENDANT, WHETHER BY POLICE, PROSECUTORS, GRAND  
13 JURY, OR OTHER ENTITY.

14 (I) "OFFICE" MEANS THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION,  
15 YOUTH, AND VICTIM SERVICES.

16 (J) (1) "POLICY" MEANS FORMAL OR INFORMAL GUIDANCE FOR  
17 EMPLOYEES OF A STATE'S ATTORNEY, WHETHER OR NOT IN WRITING.

18 (2) "POLICY" INCLUDES:

19 (I) A PROCEDURE;

20 (II) A GUIDELINE;

21 (III) A MANUAL;

22 (IV) A TRAINING MATERIAL;

23 (V) A DIRECTION;

24 (VI) AN INSTRUCTION; OR

1 (VII) ANY OTHER PIECE OF INFORMATION.

2 (K) "STATE'S ATTORNEY" MEANS THE OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY  
3 IN EACH COUNTY IN THE STATE AND BALTIMORE CITY.

4 (L) "UNIQUE IDENTIFIER" MEANS A RANDOMLY GENERATED NUMBER THAT  
5 IS ASSIGNED IN PLACE OF A DEFENDANT'S NAME.

6 15-502.

7 (A) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
8 LOCAL AND STATE LAW, EACH STATE'S ATTORNEY SHALL COLLECT AND DISCLOSE,  
9 IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 15-505 OF THIS SUBTITLE, FOR EACH CASE PROSECUTED:

10 (1) THE CASE NUMBER;

11 (2) THE INDICTMENT NUMBER;

12 (3) THE DOCKET NUMBER;

13 (4) THE UNIQUE IDENTIFIER;

14 (5) THE DEFENDANT'S:

15 (I) RACE;

16 (II) GENDER;

17 (III) DISABILITY STATUS, IF ANY; AND

18 (IV) THE SOURCE OF THE DISABILITY STATUS, IF ANY;

19 (6) THE INCIDENT DATE;

20 (7) THE ARREST DATE;

21 (8) THE DISTRICT OR NEIGHBORHOOD OF ARREST;

22 (9) THE PRIMARY ARRESTING AGENCY;

23 (10) OTHER AGENCIES INVOLVED IN THE ARREST, IF ANY;

24 (11) THE CHARGES LISTED ON THE ARRESTING AGENCY'S

1 PAPERWORK;

2 (12) IF APPLICABLE, THE REASON THE STATE'S ATTORNEY DECLINED  
3 TO PROSECUTE THE ARREST;

4 (13) THE CHARGES BROUGHT BY THE STATE'S ATTORNEY;

5 (14) THE PROSECUTOR WHO BROUGHT THE CHARGE;

6 (15) WHETHER THE DEFENDANT WAS DETERMINED ELIGIBLE FOR  
7 COURT-APPOINTED COUNSEL, AND THE PROCEEDING WHERE THE DETERMINATION  
8 WAS MADE;

9 (16) THE ARRAIGNMENT DATE;

10 (17) THE CHARGE MODIFICATION DATE;

11 (18) WHETHER DIVERSION WAS OFFERED AND, IF SO:

12 (I) THE DATE DIVERSION WAS OFFERED;

13 (II) IF STATED ON THE RECORD, THE JUDICIAL POSITION ON  
14 DIVERSION; AND

15 (III) THE DIVERSION TERMS, INCLUDING HOW MUCH THE  
16 DEFENDANT MUST PAY;

17 (19) WHETHER THE CHARGE CARRIES A MANDATORY MINIMUM  
18 SENTENCE;

19 (20) THE PROSECUTOR'S RECOMMENDATION ON BAIL OR BOND,  
20 INCLUDING RELEASE CONDITIONS;

21 (21) WHETHER BAIL OR BOND WAS IMPOSED ON THE DEFENDANT;

22 (22) WHETHER BOND WAS SECURED, UNSECURED, OR OTHER TYPE;

23 (23) THE DATE BAIL OR BOND WAS IMPOSED;

24 (24) IF ORDERED, RELEASE CONDITIONS;

25 (25) THE DATE RANGE OF ANY PRETRIAL DETENTION;

1           **(26) INFORMATION ON WHETHER A RISK ASSESSMENT OR OTHER**  
2 **ALGORITHM-BASED OR QUANTITATIVE TOOL WAS USED IN DETERMINING WHETHER**  
3 **PRETRIAL DETENTION WAS ORDERED OR THE AMOUNT OF BAIL OR BOND AND, IF**  
4 **USED:**

5                   **(I) THE NAME OF THE OFFICE OR AGENCY THAT CONDUCTED**  
6 **THE RISK ASSESSMENT; AND**

7                   **(II) THE NAME OF ANY OFFICE, AGENCY, INDIVIDUAL, OR**  
8 **ATTORNEY THAT RECEIVED THE RISK ASSESSMENT RESULTS;**

9           **(27) INFORMATION ON WHETHER A STATUTORY OR CONSTITUTIONAL**  
10 **RIGHT OF THE DEFENDANT WAS WAIVED, EITHER BY STIPULATION OR ON THE**  
11 **RECORD, INCLUDING:**

12                   **(I) THE DATE OF THE WAIVER;**

13                   **(II) THE RIGHT WAIVED; AND**

14                   **(III) WHETHER THE RIGHT WAS WAIVED AS A CONDITION OF A**  
15 **PLEA BARGAIN;**

16           **(28) WHETHER A PLEA WAS OFFERED;**

17           **(29) WHETHER A TIME LIMIT WAS PROVIDED WITH A PLEA OFFER;**

18           **(30) ALL TERMS OF ALL PLEAS OFFERED, INCLUDING:**

19                   **(I) THE CHARGES DISMISSED;**

20                   **(II) THE SENTENCE RANGES FOR THE CHARGES DISMISSED;**

21                   **(III) THE CHARGES IN THE PLEA;**

22                   **(IV) THE SENTENCE RANGES FOR THE CHARGES IN THE PLEA;**

23                   **(V) ANY CHARGES COVERED BY THE PLEA BUT NOT PART OF**  
24 **THE CONVICTION; AND**

25                   **(VI) THE PENALTIES OR SENTENCE OFFERED FOR TAKING THE**  
26 **PLEA;**

27           **(31) WHETHER THE PLEA WAS ACCEPTED OR REJECTED;**

1                   **(32) WHETHER DISCOVERY WAS OFFERED TO THE DEFENDANT BEFORE**  
2 **THE PLEA;**

3                   **(33) THE DATE DISCOVERY WAS DISCLOSED TO THE DEFENSE OR**  
4 **DEFENDANT;**

5                   **(34) THE PRESIDING JUDGE AT THE PRETRIAL STAGE;**

6                   **(35) THE DISPOSITION, INCLUDING:**

7                           **(I) THE CASE OR CHARGES DISMISSED BY THE STATE'S**  
8 **ATTORNEY, IF ANY;**

9                           **(II) IF DISMISSED, THE REASON FOR DISMISSAL;**

10                           **(III) IF CONVICTED, WHETHER BY PLEA, JURY TRIAL, OR BENCH**  
11 **TRIAL; AND**

12                           **(IV) IF THE CASE WAS DISMISSED BY A JUDGE, THE REASON FOR**  
13 **DISMISSAL;**

14                   **(36) THE PRESIDING JUDGE AT THE DISPOSITION;**

15                   **(37) THE DISPOSITION DATE;**

16                   **(38) THE SENTENCE TYPE;**

17                   **(39) THE SENTENCE LENGTH;**

18                   **(40) THE PRESIDING JUDGE AT SENTENCING;**

19                   **(41) SUPERVISION TERMS;**

20                   **(42) SERVICES REQUIRED OR PROVIDED, IF ANY;**

21                   **(43) FINES, FEES, OR SURCHARGES REQUIRED, IF ANY; AND**

22                   **(44) FORFEITURE OF PROPERTY REQUIRED, IF ANY.**

23                   **(B) EACH STATE'S ATTORNEY SHALL RECORD AND MAINTAIN THE**  
24 **INFORMATION COLLECTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION FOR AT LEAST 10**  
25 **YEARS.**

1 **15-503.**

2 (A) EACH STATE'S ATTORNEY SHALL COLLECT AND PUBLISH ON THE  
3 WEBSITE FOR EACH OFFICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 15-504 OF THIS SUBTITLE:

4 (1) ALL OFFICE POLICIES RELATED TO:

5 (I) CHARGING AND CHARGE DISMISSAL;

6 (II) BAIL;

7 (III) SENTENCING;

8 (IV) PLEA BARGAINS;

9 (V) GRAND JURY PRACTICES;

10 (VI) DISCOVERY PRACTICES;

11 (VII) WITNESS TREATMENT, INCLUDING WHEN AND HOW TO  
12 PROCURE A MATERIAL WITNESS WARRANT;

13 (VIII) HOW A DECISION IS MADE TO PROSECUTE A MINOR AS AN  
14 ADULT;

15 (IX) HOW FINES AND FEES ARE ASSESSED;

16 (X) CRIMINAL AND CIVIL FORFEITURE PRACTICES;

17 (XI) MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING AND COLLECTION OF MENTAL  
18 HEALTH HISTORY;

19 (XII) SUBSTANCE ABUSE SCREENING AND COLLECTION OF  
20 SUBSTANCE ABUSE HISTORY;

21 (XIII) DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS;

22 (XIV) DIVERSION PRACTICES AND POLICIES;

23 (XV) HUMAN RESOURCES, INCLUDING:

24 1. HIRING;



- 1                                   **2. EVALUATING;**
- 2                                   **3. PROMOTING; AND**
- 3                                   **4. ROTATION AMONG DIVISIONS OR UNITS;**
- 4                                   **(XVI) INTERNAL DISCIPLINE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES;**
- 5                                   **(XVII) VICTIM SERVICES;**
- 6                                   **(XVIII) RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAMS;**
- 7                                   **(XIX) A LISTING OF OFFICE TRAININGS IN THE IMMEDIATE**  
8 **PRECEDING CALENDAR YEAR;**
- 9                                   **(XX) PRACTICES INVOLVING TRACKING AND RESPONDING TO AN**  
10 **INMATE APPLICATION FOR PAROLE AND RESENTENCING; AND**
- 11                                   **(XXI) POLICIES SPECIFIC TO VULNERABLE POPULATIONS;**
- 12                                   **(2) FOR EACH ATTORNEY EMPLOYED:**
- 13                                   **(I) AGE;**
- 14                                   **(II) GENDER;**
- 15                                   **(III) RACE;**
- 16                                   **(IV) DATE HIRED;**
- 17                                   **(V) TITLE; AND**
- 18                                   **(VI) DISCIPLINARY HISTORY; AND**
- 19                                   **(3) THE NUMBER OF:**
- 20                                   **(I) ATTORNEYS ON STAFF;**
- 21                                   **(II) CASES HANDLED EACH YEAR FOR EACH ATTORNEY;**
- 22                                   **(III) ATTORNEYS WHO WORKED IN THE OFFICE IN A TEMPORARY**  
23 **OR CONTRACTUAL CAPACITY DURING THE IMMEDIATE PRECEDING CALENDAR**

1 YEAR;

2 (IV) PARALEGALS AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF EMPLOYED BY  
3 THE OFFICE;

4 (V) INVESTIGATORS UTILIZED DURING THE IMMEDIATE  
5 PRECEDING CALENDAR YEAR;

6 (VI) EXPERTS UTILIZED DURING THE IMMEDIATE PRECEDING  
7 CALENDAR YEAR WHETHER ON STAFF OR OTHERWISE EMPLOYED; AND

8 (VII) POLICE OR DETECTIVES WHO WORK DIRECTLY FOR THE  
9 OFFICE.

10 (B) IF A STATE'S ATTORNEY DOES NOT MAINTAIN A POLICY RELATED TO  
11 THE TOPICS DESCRIBED IN ITEM (A)(1) OF THIS SECTION, THE STATE'S ATTORNEY  
12 SHALL AFFIRMATIVELY DISCLOSE THAT FACT.

13 (C) THE STATE'S ATTORNEY SHALL REDACT OR REPLACE WITH AN  
14 ANONYMIZING IDENTIFIER THE NAMES AND OTHER PERSONALLY IDENTIFYING  
15 INFORMATION COLLECTED AND PUBLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITEM (A)(2) OF  
16 THIS SECTION.

17 15-504.

18 (A) BEGINNING APRIL 1, 2022, EACH STATE'S ATTORNEY SHALL BEGIN  
19 MAKING PUBLICLY AVAILABLE ALL OF THE INFORMATION DESCRIBED IN § 15-503  
20 OF THIS SUBTITLE BY:

21 (1) PUBLISHING THE INFORMATION ON THE STATE'S ATTORNEY'S  
22 WEBSITE; AND

23 (2) PROVIDING THE INFORMATION TO ANY PERSON WHO REQUESTS  
24 THE INFORMATION DIRECTLY FROM THE STATE'S ATTORNEY.

25 (B) THE STATE'S ATTORNEY SHALL INCLUDE IN THE INFORMATION  
26 COLLECTED UNDER § 15-503 OF THIS SUBTITLE:

27 (1) THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE POLICY; OR

28 (2) THE DATE THE INFORMATION WAS GATHERED.

29 (C) EACH STATE'S ATTORNEY SHALL PUBLISH REVISED, UPDATED, OR

1 NEWLY DRAFTED POLICIES OR NEWLY COLLECTED INFORMATION ON A TIMELY  
2 BASIS AT LEAST ONCE EACH YEAR.

3 **15-505.**

4 (A) THE OFFICE SHALL:

5 (1) DETERMINE THE MANNER IN WHICH THE STATE'S ATTORNEY  
6 DISCLOSES TO THE OFFICE THE INFORMATION COLLECTED UNDER § 15-502 OF  
7 THIS SUBTITLE;

8 (2) ENSURE THE DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION UNDER THIS  
9 SUBTITLE IS PERFORMED IN A UNIFORM AND CONSISTENT MANNER;

10 (3) (I) DETERMINE AN IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE AND PLAN BY  
11 WHICH THE STATE'S ATTORNEY SHALL DISCLOSE ALL INFORMATION COLLECTED  
12 UNDER § 15-502 OF THIS SUBTITLE ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2024.

13 (II) AT THE SOLE DISCRETION OF THE OFFICE, THE  
14 IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE AND PLAN DESCRIBED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF  
15 THIS PARAGRAPH MAY INCLUDE:

16 1. IMPLEMENTATION ON A ROLLING BASIS THAT STARTS  
17 BY PRIORITIZING A SUBSET OF THE DATA COLLECTED UNDER § 15-502 OF THIS  
18 SUBTITLE; OR

19 2. PRIORITIZE DISCLOSURE FROM LARGER STATE'S  
20 ATTORNEY OFFICES.

21 (B) (1) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2022, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE  
22 IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE AND PLAN DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION, EACH  
23 STATE'S ATTORNEY SHALL BEGIN DISCLOSING DATA, STRIPPED OF ANY  
24 INDIVIDUALIZED OR IDENTIFYING PERSONAL INFORMATION ABOUT ANY PERSON  
25 ARRESTED OR PROSECUTED, TO THE OFFICE FOR THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING  
26 CALENDAR YEAR.

27 (2) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 31, 2023, THE STATE'S ATTORNEY  
28 SHALL COMPLETE THE REQUIRED DISCLOSURE OF DATA UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.

29 (C) (1) ON OR BEFORE MAY 1, 2023, AND EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE  
30 OFFICE SHALL BEGIN PUBLISHING ONLINE THE DATA COLLECTED UNDER § 15-502  
31 OF THIS SUBTITLE IN A MODERN, OPEN, ELECTRONIC FORMAT THAT IS  
32 MACHINE-READABLE, MACHINE-SEARCHABLE, AND READILY ACCESSIBLE TO THE

1 PUBLIC ON THE OFFICE'S WEBSITE.

2 (2) DATA PUBLISHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBSECTION MAY  
3 NOT CONTAIN INDIVIDUALIZED OR IDENTIFYING PERSONAL INFORMATION ABOUT  
4 ANY PERSON ARRESTED OR PROSECUTED.

5 (E) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2023, THE OFFICE SHALL:

6 (1) REPORT ON THE DATA RECEIVED FROM THE STATE'S ATTORNEYS,  
7 COMPARING AND CONTRASTING THE PRACTICES AND TRENDS AMONG AND  
8 BETWEEN THE STATE'S ATTORNEYS; AND

9 (2) IDENTIFYING STATE'S ATTORNEYS NOT IN COMPLIANCE WITH  
10 THIS SUBTITLE.

11 (F) (1) THE OFFICE SHALL, AT LEAST TWICE PER YEAR, PUBLISH  
12 ISSUE-SPECIFIC REPORTS THAT PROVIDE IN-DEPTH ANALYSIS OF ONE OR MORE  
13 AREAS OF PROSECUTORIAL DECISION-MAKING.

14 (2) AT LEAST ONE REPORT UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL FOCUS  
15 ON RACIAL DISPARITIES.

16 15-506.

17 (A) (1) THE STATE'S ATTORNEY MAY SATISFY A REQUEST FOR  
18 INFORMATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MARYLAND PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT  
19 BY REFERRING THE REQUESTING PARTY TO THE OFFICE WEBSITE CONTAINING THE  
20 DATA IF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY:

21 (I) IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THIS SUBTITLE; AND

22 (II) IN GOOD FAITH, REASONABLY BELIEVES THAT THE  
23 REQUEST FOR INFORMATION CAN BE SATISFIED BY REFERENCE TO THE DATA MADE  
24 PUBLICLY AVAILABLE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

25 (2) IF AN INFORMATION REQUEST IS ABLE TO BE SATISFIED IN  
26 ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBSECTION, THE STATE'S ATTORNEY MAY FULFILL THE  
27 REQUEST WITHOUT AFFIRMATIVELY COLLECTING OR DISCLOSING THE PARTICULAR  
28 INFORMATION BEING REQUESTED.

29 (B) THE REQUESTING PARTY MAY SEEK JUDICIAL REVIEW IN ACCORDANCE  
30 WITH § 4-362 OF THE GENERAL PROVISIONS ARTICLE FOR PURPOSES OF  
31 COMPELLING DISCLOSURE IF:

1           **(1) THE REQUESTING PARTY DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THE REQUEST**  
2 **CAN BE SATISFIED UNDER THIS SECTION; AND**

3           **(2) THE STATE'S ATTORNEY REFUSES TO DISCLOSE THE**  
4 **INFORMATION BEING REQUESTED.**

5           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, if any provision of this Act or  
6 the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid for any reason in a  
7 court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or any other  
8 application of this Act that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application,  
9 and for this purpose the provisions of this Act are declared severable.

10           SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
11 October 1, 2021.