

Chapter 125

(Senate Bill 132)

AN ACT concerning

Inspection of Public Records – Notaries Public – Disclosure of Home Address and Phone Number

FOR the purpose of providing that a custodian of a public record is required to disclose the home address or home telephone number of a notary public only if the custodian has not been provided with the business address or business telephone number of the notary public; and generally relating to the required disclosures of public records about notaries public.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – General Provisions
Section 4–332
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

Article – General Provisions

4–332.

(a) Subject to subsections (b) through (e) of this section, a custodian shall deny inspection of the part of a public record that contains information about the application and commission of a person as a notary public.

(b) A custodian shall allow inspection of the part of a public record that gives:

(1) the name of the notary public;

(2) **[the home address of the notary public] THE NOTARY PUBLIC’S BUSINESS ADDRESS OR, IF A BUSINESS ADDRESS IS NOT PROVIDED TO THE CUSTODIAN BY THE NOTARY PUBLIC, THE NOTARY PUBLIC’S HOME ADDRESS;**

(3) **[the home and business telephone numbers of the notary public] THE NOTARY PUBLIC’S BUSINESS TELEPHONE NUMBER OR, IF A BUSINESS TELEPHONE NUMBER IS NOT PROVIDED TO THE CUSTODIAN BY THE NOTARY PUBLIC, THE NOTARY PUBLIC’S HOME TELEPHONE NUMBER;**

(4) the issue and expiration dates of the notary public’s commission;

(5) the date the person took the oath of office as a notary public; or

(6) the signature of the notary public.

(c) A custodian may allow inspection of other information about a notary public if the custodian finds a compelling public purpose.

(d) A custodian may deny inspection of a record by a notary public or any other person in interest only to the extent that the inspection could:

(1) interfere with a valid and proper law enforcement proceeding;

(2) deprive another person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication;

(3) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

(4) disclose the identity of a confidential source;

(5) disclose an investigative technique or procedure;

(6) prejudice an investigation; or

(7) endanger the life or physical safety of an individual.

(e) A custodian who sells lists of notaries public shall omit from the lists the name of any notary public, on written request of the notary public.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2021.

Approved by the Governor, April 13, 2021.