

Chapter 414

(House Bill 664)

AN ACT concerning

**Court Personnel – Protection of Personal Information
(Judge Andrew F. Wilkinson Judicial Security Act)**

FOR the purpose of authorizing a certain protected individual or the Office of Information Privacy in the Administrative Office of the Courts to request that a governmental entity or person not publish personal information of the individual on the Internet, social media, or social networks or that the governmental entity or person remove the information from any existing publication; specifying certain procedures for the protection of personal information of a protected individual; authorizing certain relief for a violation of this Act; establishing a criminal penalty for publicly posting personal information of a protected individual under certain circumstances; establishing the Judicial Address Confidentiality Program; establishing the Task Force to Ensure the Safety of Judicial Facilities; and generally relating to court personnel and the protection of personal information.

BY adding to

Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

Section 3–2301 through 3–2304 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 23. Protected Individuals – Protected Information”; and 3–2401 through 3–2407 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 24. Protected Individuals – Judicial Address Confidentiality Program”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Real Property

Section 3–114

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2023 Replacement Volume)

Preamble

WHEREAS, Judge Andrew F. Wilkinson was appointed to the Circuit Court for Washington County in January 2020, and served the Maryland Judiciary and the citizens of this State with distinction until his untimely death on October 19, 2023; and

WHEREAS, On October 19, 2023, Judge Wilkinson calmly and even-handedly presided over a divorce and custody case involving extensive testimony of abuse inflicted on one of the litigants and her children; and

WHEREAS, Judge Wilkinson should have been able to peacefully return home to his family in Hagerstown after having appropriately met his professional obligations; and

WHEREAS, Judge Wilkinson left the courthouse after issuing his ruling and was shot and killed in the driveway of his personal residence by the abusive litigant over whose case he had just presided; and

WHEREAS, Protecting the safety and security of judicial officers throughout Maryland and the United States has become an issue of critical importance due to threats, assaults, and murders of judicial officers and their family members; and

WHEREAS, The National Center for State Courts reports Judge Wilkinson’s murder as the third targeted shooting of a state court judge in the last 3 years; and

WHEREAS, The United States Congress passed the Daniel Anderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act in 2020, after an aggrieved litigant murdered U.S. District Judge Esther Salas’s only son at her personal residence; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly acknowledges these increasing threats to judicial officers and seeks to ensure the protection, safety, and security of judicial officers and their families throughout Maryland; now, therefore,

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

Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

SUBTITLE 23. PROTECTED INDIVIDUALS – PROTECTED INFORMATION.

3–2301.

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

(B) “GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 10–1501 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

(C) “OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRIVACY” MEANS THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRIVACY IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS.

(D) (1) “PERSONAL INFORMATION” MEANS:

(I) A HOME ADDRESS;

(II) A HOME TELEPHONE NUMBER;

- (III) A MOBILE TELEPHONE NUMBER;
- (IV) A PERSONAL E-MAIL ADDRESS;
- (V) A SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER;
- (VI) A DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER;
- (VII) A FEDERAL TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER;
- (VIII) A BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER;
- (IX) A CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD NUMBER;
- (X) A LICENSE PLATE NUMBER OR UNIQUE IDENTIFIER OF A VEHICLE;
- (XI) A BIRTH OR MARITAL RECORD;
- (XII) A CHILD'S NAME;
- (XIII) A SCHOOL OR DAYCARE;
- (XIV) A PLACE OF WORSHIP; OR
- (XV) A PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OF AN INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (E)(6) OF THIS SECTION.

(2) "PERSONAL INFORMATION" DOES NOT INCLUDE:

(I) INFORMATION THAT HAS BEEN PUBLICLY DISCLOSED WITH THE CONSENT OF THE PROTECTED INDIVIDUAL; OR

(II) INFORMATION THAT IS RELEVANT TO AND DISPLAYED AS PART OF A NEWS STORY, COMMENTARY, AN EDITORIAL, OR ANY OTHER SPEECH ON MATTERS OF PUBLIC CONCERN.

(E) "PROTECTED INDIVIDUAL" MEANS:

(1) A CURRENT OR RETIRED JUSTICE OR JUDGE OF A COURT ESTABLISHED UNDER ARTICLE IV OF THE MARYLAND CONSTITUTION;

(2) A CURRENT OR RETIRED JUSTICE OR JUDGE OF A FEDERAL COURT, INCLUDING A U.S. BANKRUPTCY COURT, DOMICILED IN THE STATE;

(3) A CURRENT OR RETIRED MAGISTRATE APPOINTED BY A CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE;

(4) A CURRENT OR RETIRED UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE DOMICILED IN THE STATE;

(5) A CURRENT OR RETIRED COMMISSIONER OF THE DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND; OR

(6) A SPOUSE, A CHILD, OR A DEPENDENT WHO RESIDES IN THE SAME HOUSEHOLD AS AN INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBED IN ITEMS (1) THROUGH (5) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

(F) “PUBLISH” MEANS TO POST OR OTHERWISE MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC ON THE INTERNET, SOCIAL MEDIA, OR SOCIAL NETWORKS.

3-2302.

(A) A PROTECTED INDIVIDUAL, OR THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRIVACY ON BEHALF OF A PROTECTED INDIVIDUAL, MAY REQUEST THAT A GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY:

(1) NOT PUBLISH THE PROTECTED INDIVIDUAL’S PERSONAL INFORMATION; OR

(2) REMOVE THE PROTECTED INDIVIDUAL’S PERSONAL INFORMATION FROM ANY EXISTING PUBLICATION.

(B) A REQUEST MADE UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL:

(1) BE IN WRITING;

(2) BE SENT BY CERTIFIED MAIL OR BY E-MAIL;

(3) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, PROVIDE SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO CONFIRM THAT THE REQUESTER IS A PROTECTED INDIVIDUAL; AND

(4) ADEQUATELY IDENTIFY THE DOCUMENT, POSTING, OR OTHER PUBLICATION CONTAINING THE PERSONAL INFORMATION.

(C) A REQUEST MADE BY THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRIVACY CERTIFIES THAT A REQUESTER IS A PROTECTED INDIVIDUAL AND NO FURTHER INFORMATION MAY BE REQUIRED TO CONFIRM THAT THE REQUESTER IS A PROTECTED INDIVIDUAL.

(D) ON RECEIPT OF A REQUEST UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY SHALL PROMPTLY ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THE REQUEST IN WRITING BY CERTIFIED MAIL OR BY E-MAIL AND:

(1) TAKE STEPS REASONABLY NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT THE PERSONAL INFORMATION IS NOT PUBLISHED; OR

(2) IF THE PERSONAL INFORMATION IS ALREADY PUBLISHED, PROVIDE FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE PERSONAL INFORMATION WITHIN 72 HOURS AFTER RECEIPT OF THE REQUEST.

(E) A PROTECTED INDIVIDUAL OR THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRIVACY MAY BRING AN ACTION FOR A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION AGAINST A GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY FOR:

(1) DECLARATORY RELIEF;

(2) INJUNCTIVE RELIEF; OR

(3) REASONABLE ATTORNEY'S FEES.

3-2303.

(A) A PROTECTED INDIVIDUAL, OR THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRIVACY ON BEHALF OF A PROTECTED INDIVIDUAL, MAY REQUEST THAT A PERSON WHO HAS PUBLISHED THE PROTECTED INDIVIDUAL'S PERSONAL INFORMATION REMOVE THE PROTECTED INDIVIDUAL'S PERSONAL INFORMATION FROM PUBLICATION.

(B) A REQUEST MADE UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL:

(1) BE IN WRITING;

(2) BE SENT BY CERTIFIED MAIL OR BY E-MAIL;

(3) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, PROVIDE SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO CONFIRM THAT THE REQUESTER IS A PROTECTED INDIVIDUAL; AND

(4) ADEQUATELY IDENTIFY THE DOCUMENT, POSTING, OR OTHER PUBLICATION CONTAINING THE PERSONAL INFORMATION.

(C) A REQUEST MADE BY THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRIVACY CERTIFIES THAT A REQUESTER IS A PROTECTED INDIVIDUAL AND NO FURTHER INFORMATION MAY BE REQUIRED TO CONFIRM THAT THE REQUESTER IS A PROTECTED INDIVIDUAL.

(D) THE PERSON TO WHOM THE REQUEST IS MADE SHALL:

(1) PROVIDE FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE PERSONAL INFORMATION WITHIN 72 HOURS AFTER RECEIPT OF THE REQUEST; AND

(2) NOTIFY THE PROTECTED INDIVIDUAL OR THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRIVACY BY CERTIFIED MAIL OR BY E-MAIL OF THE REMOVAL.

(E) (1) A PROTECTED INDIVIDUAL OR THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRIVACY MAY BRING AN ACTION FOR A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION AGAINST A PERSON FOR:

(I) DECLARATORY RELIEF;

(II) INJUNCTIVE RELIEF;

(III) DAMAGES INCURRED AS THE RESULT OF A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION; OR

(IV) REASONABLE ATTORNEY'S FEES.

(2) IN ADDITION TO THE RELIEF PROVIDED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, IF A COURT FINDS THAT A PERSON WILLFULLY REFUSED TO PROVIDE FOR THE REMOVAL OF PERSONAL INFORMATION KNOWING THAT THE INDIVIDUAL ON BEHALF OF WHOM THE REQUEST WAS MADE WAS A PROTECTED INDIVIDUAL, THE COURT MAY AWARD PUNITIVE DAMAGES.

3-2304.

(A) ~~A PERSON~~ AN INDIVIDUAL MAY NOT KNOWINGLY PUBLISH THE PERSONAL INFORMATION OF A PROTECTED INDIVIDUAL IF:

(1) ~~THE PERSON~~ INDIVIDUAL KNOWS OR REASONABLY SHOULD KNOW THAT PUBLISHING THE PERSONAL INFORMATION POSES AN IMMINENT AND SERIOUS THREAT TO THE PROTECTED INDIVIDUAL; AND

- (2) **THE PUBLISHING OF THE PERSONAL INFORMATION RESULTS IN:**
- (I) **AN ASSAULT IN ANY DEGREE;**
 - (II) **HARASSMENT;**
 - (III) **TRESPASS; OR**
 - (IV) **MALICIOUS DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY.**

(B) ~~A PERSON~~ AN INDIVIDUAL WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 18 MONTHS OR A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$5,000 OR BOTH.

SUBTITLE 24. PROTECTED INDIVIDUALS – JUDICIAL ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM.

3-2401.

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

(B) **“ACTUAL ADDRESS” MEANS A RESIDENTIAL STREET ADDRESS, INCLUDING PRIMARY RESIDENCE OR SECONDARY RESIDENCE, OF A PROTECTED INDIVIDUAL AS SPECIFIED ON THE PROTECTED INDIVIDUAL’S APPLICATION TO BE A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.**

(C) **“GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 10-1501 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

(D) **“OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRIVACY” MEANS THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRIVACY IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS.**

(E) **“PROGRAM” MEANS THE JUDICIAL ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM.**

(F) **“PROGRAM PARTICIPANT” MEANS A PROTECTED INDIVIDUAL DESIGNATED AS A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.**

(G) **“PROTECTED INDIVIDUAL” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 3-2301 OF THIS TITLE.**

3-2402.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS SUBTITLE IS TO:

(1) ENABLE STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS FOR PUBLIC RECORDS WITHOUT DISCLOSING THE ACTUAL ADDRESS OF A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT;

(2) ENCOURAGE INTERAGENCY COOPERATION IN PROVIDING ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY FOR PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS;

(3) ALLOW GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES AND PERSONS TO ACCEPT A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT'S USE OF AN ADDRESS DESIGNATED BY THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRIVACY AS A SUBSTITUTE ADDRESS; AND

(4) PROVIDE A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT WITH PROTECTIONS IN ADDITION TO THOSE PROVIDED UNDER TITLE 3, SUBTITLE 23 OF THIS ARTICLE.

3-2403.

THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRIVACY SHALL ESTABLISH AND ADMINISTER A JUDICIAL ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM FOR PROTECTED INDIVIDUALS.

3-2404.

(A) A PROTECTED INDIVIDUAL MAY APPLY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM IN THE MANNER REQUIRED BY THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRIVACY.

(B) ON RECEIPT OF AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM, THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRIVACY SHALL DETERMINE WHETHER THE APPLICANT QUALIFIES AS A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT.

3-2405.

(A) THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRIVACY MAY:

(1) REQUEST THAT A PERSON OR GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY USE A SUBSTITUTE ADDRESS DESIGNATED BY THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRIVACY AS THE PROGRAM PARTICIPANT'S ADDRESS;

(2) REQUEST THE SHIELDING OF REAL PROPERTY RECORDS ON BEHALF OF A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT WHO HAS AN OWNERSHIP INTEREST IN REAL PROPERTY IN ACCORDANCE WITH TITLE 3, SUBTITLE 1, PART II OF THE REAL PROPERTY ARTICLE; AND

(3) REQUEST THAT A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT'S ACTUAL ADDRESS BE SHIELDED FROM PUBLIC INSPECTION IN A RECORD MAINTAINED BY A GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY.

(B) A REQUEST MADE BY THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRIVACY UNDER THIS SUBTITLE CERTIFIES THAT A REQUESTER IS A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT.

(C) ON RECEIPT OF A REQUEST BY THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRIVACY, A PERSON OR GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY SHALL:

(1) PROMPTLY ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THE REQUEST IN WRITING BY CERTIFIED MAIL OR BY E-MAIL; AND

(2) TAKE STEPS REASONABLY NECESSARY TO COMPLY.

(D) NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTION (A)(3) OF THIS SECTION, A CUSTODIAN OF RECORD MAY:

(1) MAINTAIN A COPY OF A RECORD CONTAINING A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT'S ACTUAL ADDRESS IN A SEPARATE SECURE AREA TO WHICH PERSONS WHO DO NOT HAVE A LEGITIMATE REASON FOR ACCESS ARE DENIED ACCESS;

(2) PERMIT PUBLIC INSPECTION OF A RECORD WITH THE CONSENT OF THE PROGRAM PARTICIPANT;

(3) PERMIT PUBLIC INSPECTION OF A RECORD WITH THE ACTUAL ADDRESS REDACTED FROM THE RECORD; OR

(4) AFTER NOTIFICATION TO THE PROGRAM PARTICIPANT, PERMIT PUBLIC INSPECTION OF A RECORD IF THE INSPECTION WILL FURTHER A SUBSTANTIAL PUBLIC INTEREST OR A LEGITIMATE BUSINESS NEED.

3-2406.

A RECORD OF A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT'S ACTUAL ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER MAINTAINED BY THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRIVACY OR A GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY IS NOT A PUBLIC RECORD WITHIN THE MEANING OF § 4-101 OF THE GENERAL PROVISIONS ARTICLE.

3-2407.

(A) A PERSON MAY NOT KNOWINGLY DISCLOSE A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT'S ACTUAL ADDRESS.

(B) A PROTECTED INDIVIDUAL OR THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRIVACY MAY BRING AN ACTION FOR A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION FOR:

- (1) DECLARATORY RELIEF;**
- (2) INJUNCTIVE RELIEF; OR**
- (3) REASONABLE ATTORNEY’S FEES.**

Article – Real Property

3–114.

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

(b) “ACP number” means the unique identification number assigned to each program participant by the Secretary **OR BY THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRIVACY.**

(c) “Actual address” means a residential street address, school address, or work address of an individual, as specified on the individual’s application to be a program participant under Title 7, Subtitle 3 of the State Government Article.

(d) “Address Confidentiality Program” means the Address Confidentiality Program for survivors of threatened, attempted, or actual domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, harassment, or human trafficking administered by the Secretary under Title 7, Subtitle 3 of the State Government Article **AND THE JUDICIAL ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS UNDER TITLE 3, SUBTITLE 24 OF THE COURTS ARTICLE.**

(e) (1) “Identity information” means information that may be used to identify a program participant.

(2) “Identity information” includes a program participant’s:

- (i) Name;
- (ii) Phone number;
- (iii) E–mail address;
- (iv) Social Security number; and
- (v) Driver’s license number.

(F) “OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRIVACY” MEANS THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRIVACY IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS.

[(f)] (G) “Program participant” means an individual designated by the Secretary **OR BY THE OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRIVACY** as a participant in an address confidentiality program.

[(g)] (H) “Real Property ACP Notice” means the notice required under this part for a program participant to request the shielding of real property records.

[(h)] (I) “Real property record” means any record or data maintained by a clerk of the circuit court or a State or local agency as part of the land or tax records.

[(i)] (J) “Secretary” means the Secretary of State.

[(j)] (K) “Shield” means to remove real property records from public inspection in accordance with this part.

[(k)] (L) “Shielding” means, with respect to a real property record accepted for recording by a clerk of the circuit court or a State or local agency, removing the record to a separate secure area to which persons who do not have a legitimate reason for access are denied access.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

- (a) There is a Task Force to Ensure the Safety of Judicial Facilities.
- (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:
 - (1) the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland;
 - (2) the Chief Judge of the Appellate Court of Maryland;
 - (3) the Chair of the Conference of Circuit Judges, or the Chair’s designee;
 - (4) two circuit court administrative judges from counties with varying population densities, appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland;
 - (5) the Chief Judge of the District Court of Maryland;
 - (6) two District Court administrative judges from counties with varying population densities, appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland;
 - (7) three members of county leadership or their designees, from counties with varying population densities, appointed by the Governor;

- (8) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;
- (9) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of the House;
- (10) three sheriffs or their designees, from counties with varying population densities, appointed by the Governor;
- (11) the Superintendent of the Maryland State Police, or the Superintendent's designee;
- (12) the Secretary of General Services, or the Secretary's designee;
- (13) the Secretary of Budget and Management, or the Secretary's designee;
- (14) the Secretary of Public Safety and Correctional Services, or the Secretary's designee;
- (15) three chiefs of police or their designees, from counties with varying population densities, appointed by the Governor;
- (16) a magistrate from a circuit court, appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland;
- (17) one clerk of a circuit court, appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland;
- (18) the Director of Commissioners for the District Court of Maryland;
- (19) the Chief of Security Administration for the Administrative Office of the Courts;
- (20) one District Court bailiff, appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland; ~~and~~
- (21) one representative of the Maryland Association of Counties, appointed by the Governor;
- (22) the president of the Maryland State Bar Association, or the president's designee;
- (23) the Public Defender, or the Public Defender's designee;
- (24) the president of the Maryland State's Attorneys' Association, or the president's designee; and

(25) the chair of the Conference of Orphans' Court Judges, or the chair's designee.

(c) The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland shall chair the Task Force.

(d) The Administrative Office of the Courts shall provide staff for the Task Force.

(e) A member of the Task Force:

(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(f) The Task Force shall:

(1) identify minimum requirements for courthouse safety, including:

(i) the minimum number of security officers that should be present in each type of judicial proceeding in a circuit court or in the District Court;

(ii) the minimum qualifications for security officers;

(iii) minimum standards for secure entry and exit of judicial officers from court facilities, including for secure parking and, if such parking is not connected to the courthouse, secure transit between parking and the courthouse; and

(iv) minimum standards for safe public areas of courthouses, including for the protection of judicial officers who are required to enter public areas of the courthouse in the performance of their public duties;

(2) develop a legislative proposal to ensure that the requirements identified under item (1) of this subsection can be met; and

(3) identify physical security deficiencies that currently exist in courthouses and develop a plan to address these deficiencies.

(g) A member of the Task Force serves at the pleasure of the person who appointed the member.

(h) At the Task Force's first meeting, the Task Force shall vote to adopt a code of conduct providing for the acceptable conduct of Task Force members.

~~(e)~~ (i) On or before January 1, 2025, the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 1 of this Act shall take effect October 1, 2024.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, except as provided in Section 3 of this Act, this Act shall take effect June 1, 2024. Section 2 of this Act shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and 1 month and, at the end of June 30, 2026, Section 2 of this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 9, 2024.