

HOUSE BILL 942

E1

6lr2377
CF 6lr3303

By: **Delegate S. Johnson**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2026

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Law – Interference of Custody Orders – Penalties**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from knowingly and willfully interfering with a
4 certain custody order in a certain manner; and generally relating to custody orders.

5 BY adding to

6 Article – Criminal Law

7 Section 3–504

8 Annotated Code of Maryland

9 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

12 **Article – Criminal Law**

13 **3–504.**

14 **(A) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO A CUSTODY ORDER OVER WHICH A COURT OF**
15 **THE STATE HAS JURISDICTION.**

16 **(B) A PERSON MAY NOT KNOWINGLY AND WILLFULLY INTERFERE WITH A**
17 **CUSTODY ORDER, BY ENTING OR PERSUADING A MINOR AWAY OR WITHHOLDING A**
18 **MINOR FROM:**

19 **(1) THE MINOR’S LAWFUL CUSTODIAN;**

20 **(2) A COURT-APPOINTED GUARDIAN; OR**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(3) A PERSON LAWFULLY STANDING IN LOCO PARENTIS.

(C) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION:

(1) FOR A FIRST OFFENSE, SHALL RECEIVE A WRITTEN WARNING;

4 (2) FOR A SECOND OFFENSE, IS SUBJECT TO A CIVIL FINE NOT
5 EXCEEDING \$250;

6 (3) FOR A THIRD OFFENSE, IS SUBJECT TO A CIVIL FINE NOT
7 EXCEEDING \$500;

8 (4) FOR A FOURTH OFFENSE, IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND ON
9 CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 30 DAYS; AND

10 (5) FOR A FIFTH OR SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE, IS GUILTY OF A
11 MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO IMPRISONMENT NOT
12 EXCEEDING 1 YEAR.

13 (D) A WRITTEN WARNING FOR A VIOLATION ISSUED UNDER SUBSECTION
14 (C)(1) OF THIS SECTION:

15 (1) SHALL BE SIGNED BY THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER ISSUING
16 THE WARNING; AND

17 (2) SHALL CONTAIN:

18 (I) THE NAME, ADDRESS, AND DATE OF BIRTH OF THE PERSON
19 IN VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION;

20 (II) THE DATE AND TIME THAT THE VIOLATION OCCURRED;

22 (IV) NOTICE OF THE POTENTIAL PENALTIES THAT MAY BE
23 IMPOSED FOR SUBSEQUENT VIOLATIONS.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
25 October 1, 2026.