

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 ENTICING 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;

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

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

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

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

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

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

(2) SHALL CONTAIN:

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

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

(III) A DESCRIPTION OF THE VIOLATION THAT OCCURRED; AND

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

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