

SENATE BILL 632

P1

6lr2821

CF 6lr2822

By: **Senators West and Hester**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2026

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Government – State Elected Officials – Protection of Personal Information**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Office of State Elected Officials Information Privacy
4 in the Department of Legislative Services; authorizing a certain protected individual
5 or the Office of State Elected Officials Information Privacy in the Department of
6 Legislative Services to request that a governmental entity or person not publish
7 personal information of the individual on the Internet, social media, or social
8 networks or that the governmental entity or person remove the information from any
9 existing publication; specifying certain procedures for the protection of personal
10 information of a protected individual; authorizing certain relief for a violation of this
11 Act; establishing a criminal penalty for publicly posting personal information of a
12 protected individual under certain circumstances; and generally relating to State
13 elected officials and the protection of personal information.

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

15 Article – Real Property

16 Section 3–114

17 Annotated Code of Maryland

18 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

20 Article – State Government

21 Section 2–1206

22 Annotated Code of Maryland

23 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

24 BY adding to

25 Article – State Government

26 Section 10–1801 through 10–1804 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 18.
27 Protected Individuals – Protected Information”; and 10–1901 through

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 10–1907 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 19. Protected Individuals –
2 State Elected Officials Address Confidentiality Program”
3 Annotated Code of Maryland
4 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

7 **Article – Real Property**

8 3–114.

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

10 (b) “ACP number” means the unique identification number assigned to each
11 program participant by the Secretary [or], by the Office of Information Privacy, **OR BY THE**
12 **OFFICE OF STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS INFORMATION PRIVACY.**

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

16 (d) “Address Confidentiality Program” means [the]:

17 (1) **THE** Address Confidentiality Program for survivors of threatened,
18 attempted, or actual domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, harassment, or human
19 trafficking administered by the Secretary under Title 7, Subtitle 3 of the State Government
20 Article [and the];

21 (2) **THE** Judicial Address Confidentiality Program administered by the
22 Administrative Office of the Courts under Title 3, Subtitle 24 of the Courts Article; **AND**

23 (3) **THE STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY**
24 **PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES**
25 **UNDER TITLE 10, SUBTITLE 19 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

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

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

29 (i) Name;

30 (ii) Phone number;

31 (iii) E-mail address;

1 (iv) Social Security number; and

2 (v) Driver's license number.

3 (f) "Office of Information Privacy" means the Office of Information Privacy in the
4 Administrative Office of the Courts.

5 **(G) "OFFICE OF STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS INFORMATION PRIVACY"**
6 **MEANS THE OFFICE OF STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS INFORMATION PRIVACY IN THE**
7 **DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES.**

8 **[(g)] (H)** "Program participant" means an individual designated by the Secretary
9 [or], by the Office of Information Privacy, **OR BY THE OFFICE OF STATE ELECTED**
10 **OFFICIALS INFORMATION PRIVACY** as a participant in an address confidentiality
11 program.

12 **[(h)] (I)** "Real Property ACP Notice" means the notice required under this part
13 for a program participant to request the shielding of real property records.

14 **[(i)] (J)** "Real property record" means any record or data maintained by a clerk
15 of the circuit court or a State or local agency as part of the land or tax records.

16 **[(j)] (K)** "Secretary" means the Secretary of State.

17 **[(k)] (L)** "Shield" means to remove real property records from public inspection
18 in accordance with this part.

19 **[(l)] (M)** "Shielding" means, with respect to a real property record accepted for
20 recording by a clerk of the circuit court or a State or local agency, removing the record to a
21 separate secure area to which persons who do not have a legitimate reason for access are
22 denied access.

23 Article – State Government

24 2–1206.

25 (a) The following units are in the Department:

26 (1) the Office of Legislative Audits;

27 (2) the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability;

28 (3) the Office of Policy Analysis;

29 (4) the Office of Operations and Support Services; [and]

1 (5) THE OFFICE OF STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS INFORMATION
2 PRIVACY; AND

3 [5] (6) any other offices as may be designated by the President and the
4 Speaker.

8 (1) the director of the Office of Legislative Audits;

11 (3) the director of the Office of Policy Analysis;

12 (4) the director of the Office of Operations and Support Services; [and]

17 (c) Each office director serves without a fixed term and, subject to the approval of
18 the President and the Speaker and in consultation with the minority leader of the Senate
19 and the minority leader of the House of Delegates, may be removed by the Executive
20 Director.

21 (d) Each office director shall serve in a nonpartisan capacity and ensure that all
22 activities of the office are conducted in a nonpartisan manner.

23 (e) Each office director is entitled to the salary provided in the State budget.

24 (f) After consultation with the Executive Director, each office director may
25 appoint an appropriate number of qualified individuals to serve in management functions
26 in the respective offices.

SUBTITLE 18. PROTECTED INDIVIDUALS – PROTECTED INFORMATION

28 10-1801

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

1 (B) “GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 10-1501 OF
2 THIS TITLE.

3 (C) "OFFICE" MEANS THE OFFICE OF STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS
4 INFORMATION PRIVACY IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES.

5 (D) (1) "PERSONAL INFORMATION" MEANS:

6 (I) A HOME ADDRESS;

7 (II) A HOME TELEPHONE NUMBER;

8 (III) A MOBILE TELEPHONE NUMBER;

9 (IV) A PERSONAL E-MAIL ADDRESS;

10 (v) A SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER;

11 (VI) A DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER;

12 (VII) A FEDERAL TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER;

(VIII) A BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER:

14 (IX) A CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD NUMBER:

15 (x) A LICENSE PLATE NUMBER OR UNIQUE IDENTIFIER OF A
16 VEHICLE:

17 (xi) A BIRTH OR MARITAL RECORD:

18 (XII) A CHILD'S NAME:

19 (XIII) A SCHOOL OR DAYCARE:

(XIV) A PLACE OF WORSHIP: OB

21 (XV) A PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT

(2) "PERSONAL INFORMATION" DOES NOT INCLUDE:

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

6 (E) "PROTECTED INDIVIDUAL" MEANS:

(1) A CURRENT OR FORMER GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND;

(2) A CURRENT OR FORMER LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND;

(3) A CURRENT OR FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL OF MARYLAND;

(4) A CURRENT OR FORMER COMPTROLLER OF MARYLAND:

(5) A CURRENT OR FORMER MEMBER OF THE MARYLAND SENATE;

**(6) A CURRENT OR FORMER MEMBER OF THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF
S; OR**

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

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

19 10-1802.

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

22 (1) NOT PUBLISH THE PROTECTED INDIVIDUAL'S PERSONAL
23 INFORMATION; OR

24 (2) REMOVE THE PROTECTED INDIVIDUAL'S PERSONAL
25 INFORMATION FROM ANY EXISTING PUBLICATION.

26 (B) A REQUEST MADE UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL:

27 (1) BE IN WRITING:

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 (1) DECLARATORY RELIEF:

21 (2) INJUNCTIVE RELIEF: OR

22 (3) REASONABLE ATTORNEY'S FEES.

23 10-1803.

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

28 (B) A REQUEST MADE UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL:

1 **(1) BE IN WRITING;**

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 **(2) NOTIFY THE PROTECTED INDIVIDUAL OR THE OFFICE BY**
15 **CERTIFIED MAIL OR BY E-MAIL OF THE REMOVAL.**

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

18 **(I) DECLARATORY RELIEF;**

19 **(II) INJUNCTIVE RELIEF; OR**

20 **(III) REASONABLE ATTORNEY'S FEES.**

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

26 **10-1804.**

27 **(A) AN INDIVIDUAL MAY NOT KNOWINGLY PUBLISH THE PERSONAL**
28 **INFORMATION OF A PROTECTED INDIVIDUAL IF:**

(2) THE PUBLISHING OF THE PERSONAL INFORMATION RESULTS IN:

5 (I) AN ASSAULT IN ANY DEGREE;

6 (II) HARASSMENT;

7 (III) TRESPASS; OR

8 (IV) MALICIOUS DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY.

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

12 **SUBTITLE 19. PROTECTED INDIVIDUALS – STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS ADDRESS**
13 **CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM.**

14 10-1901.

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

17 (B) "ACTUAL ADDRESS" MEANS A RESIDENTIAL STREET ADDRESS,
18 INCLUDING PRIMARY OR SECONDARY RESIDENCE, OF A PROTECTED INDIVIDUAL AS
19 SPECIFIED ON THE PROTECTED INDIVIDUAL'S APPLICATION TO BE A PROGRAM
20 PARTICIPANT UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

21 (C) "GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 10-1501 OF
22 THIS TITLE.

23 (D) "OFFICE" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 10-1801 OF THIS TITLE.

24 (E) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE STATE ELECTED OFFICIALS ADDRESS
25 CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM.

26 (F) "PROGRAM PARTICIPANT" MEANS A PROTECTED INDIVIDUAL
27 DESIGNATED AS A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

1 (G) "PROTECTED INDIVIDUAL" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 10-1801 OF
2 THIS TITLE.

3 10-1902.

4 THE PURPOSE OF THIS SUBTITLE IS TO:

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

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

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

13 (4) PROVIDE A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT WITH PROTECTIONS IN
14 ADDITION TO THOSE PROVIDED UNDER SUBTITLE 18 OF THIS TITLE.

15 10-1903.

16 THE OFFICE SHALL ESTABLISH AND ADMINISTER A STATE ELECTED
17 OFFICIALS ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM FOR PROTECTED INDIVIDUALS.

18 10-1904.

19 (A) A PROTECTED INDIVIDUAL MAY APPLY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
20 PROGRAM IN THE MANNER REQUIRED BY THE OFFICE.

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

24 10-1905.

25 (A) THE OFFICE MAY:

26 (1) REQUEST THAT A PERSON OR GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY USE A
27 SUBSTITUTE ADDRESS DESIGNATED BY THE OFFICE AS THE PROGRAM
28 PARTICIPANT'S ADDRESS;

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

8 **(B) A REQUEST MADE BY THE OFFICE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE CERTIFIES**
9 **THAT A REQUESTER IS A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT.**

10 (c) ON RECEIPT OF A REQUEST BY THE OFFICE, A PERSON OR
11 GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY SHALL:

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

(2) TAKE STEPS REASONABLY NECESSARY TO COMPLY.

15 (D) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBSECTION (A)(3) OF THIS SECTION, A
16 CUSTODIAN OF RECORD MAY:

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

28 10-1906.

29 **A RECORD OF A PROGRAM PARTICIPANT'S ACTUAL ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE**
30 **NUMBER MAINTAINED BY THE OFFICE OR A GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY IS NOT A**
31 **PUBLIC RECORD UNDER § 4-101 OF THE GENERAL PROVISIONS ARTICLE.**

1 **10-1907.**

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

4 **(B) A PROTECTED INDIVIDUAL OR THE OFFICE MAY BRING AN ACTION FOR**
5 **A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION FOR:**

6 **(1) DECLARATORY RELIEF;**
7 **(2) INJUNCTIVE RELIEF; OR**
8 **(3) REASONABLE ATTORNEY'S FEES.**

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