

SENATE BILL 661

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6lr2618

By: **Senators Love, Charles, Henson, McKay, Smith, Sydnor, Waldstreicher, and West**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Wiretapping and Electronic Surveillance – Intercepted Communications –**
3 **Admissibility of Evidence**

4 FOR the purpose of providing that the contents of a certain intercepted communication and
5 evidence derived from the communication may be received in evidence in a certain
6 criminal proceeding under certain circumstances; and generally relating to the
7 admissibility of intercepted communications.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
10 Section 10–405
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

16 10–405.

17 (a) Except as provided in [subsection] **SUBSECTIONS (b) AND (C)** of this section,
18 whenever any wire, oral, or electronic communication has been intercepted, no part of the
19 contents of the communication and no evidence derived therefrom may be received in
20 evidence in any trial, hearing, or other proceeding in or before any court, grand jury,
21 department, officer, agency, regulatory body, legislative committee, or other authority of
22 this State, or a political subdivision thereof if the disclosure of that information would be
23 in violation of this subtitle.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (b) If any wire, oral, or electronic communication is intercepted in any state or
2 any political subdivision of a state, the United States or any territory, protectorate, or
3 possession of the United States, including the District of Columbia in accordance with the
4 law of that jurisdiction, but that would be in violation of this subtitle if the interception was
5 made in this State, the contents of the communication and evidence derived from the
6 communication may be received in evidence in any trial, hearing, or other proceeding in or
7 before any court, grand jury, department, officer, agency, regulatory body, legislative
8 committee, or other authority of this State, or any political subdivision of this State if:

9 (1) At least one of the parties to the communication was outside the State
10 during the communication;

11 (2) The interception was not made as part of or in furtherance of an
12 investigation conducted by or on behalf of law enforcement officials of this State; and

13 (3) All parties to the communication were co-conspirators in a crime of
14 violence as defined in § 14-101 of the Criminal Law Article.

15 (c) (1) **SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, IF ANY WIRE,
16 ORAL, OR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION HAS BEEN INTERCEPTED, THE CONTENTS
17 OF THE COMMUNICATION AND EVIDENCE DERIVED FROM THE COMMUNICATION
18 MAY BE RECEIVED IN EVIDENCE IN A CRIMINAL TRIAL OR HEARING BEFORE THE
19 DISTRICT COURT OR CIRCUIT COURT IF THE COURT DETERMINES THAT:**

20 (i) **THE CASE IN WHICH THE COMMUNICATION IS OFFERED
21 INVOLVES:**

22 1. **A CRIME COMMITTED AGAINST AT LEAST ONE
23 INDIVIDUAL; OR**

24 2. **A HATE CRIME UNDER TITLE 10, SUBTITLE 3 OF THE
25 CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE;**

26 (ii) **THE CONTENTS OF THE COMMUNICATION AND EVIDENCE
27 DERIVED FROM THE COMMUNICATION ARE OFFERED AS EVIDENCE OF A MATERIAL
28 FACT;**

29 (iii) **THE INTERCEPTION WAS NOT MADE AS PART OF OR IN
30 FURTHERANCE OF AN INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED BY OR ON BEHALF OF LAW
31 ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS OF THIS STATE;**

32 (iv) **THE CONTENTS OF THE COMMUNICATION AND EVIDENCE
33 DERIVED FROM THE COMMUNICATION ARE MORE PROBATIVE ON THE POINT FOR
34 WHICH THEY ARE OFFERED THAN ANY OTHER EVIDENCE THAT THE PROPONENT CAN
35 PROCURE THROUGH REASONABLE EFFORTS; AND**

1 **(v) THE INTEREST OF JUSTICE WILL BE BEST SERVED BY THE**
2 **ADMISSION INTO EVIDENCE OF THE CONTENTS OF THE COMMUNICATION AND**
3 **EVIDENCE DERIVED FROM THE COMMUNICATION.**

4 **(2) THE CONTENTS OF A COMMUNICATION AND EVIDENCE DERIVED**
5 **FROM THE COMMUNICATION MAY NOT BE RECEIVED IN EVIDENCE UNDER**
6 **PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION UNLESS THE PROPONENT PROVIDES THE**
7 **ADVERSE PARTY, SUFFICIENTLY IN ADVANCE OF THE TRIAL OR HEARING TO ALLOW**
8 **THE ADVERSE PARTY A FAIR OPPORTUNITY TO PREPARE, BUT NOT LATER THAN 14**
9 **CALENDAR DAYS BEFORE THE TRIAL OR HEARING, WITH:**

10 **(i) NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO OFFER THE CONTENTS OF**
11 **THE COMMUNICATION AND EVIDENCE DERIVED FROM THE COMMUNICATION; AND**

12 **(ii) THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY WHOSE**
13 **COMMUNICATION WAS INTERCEPTED.**

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