



BILL NO: Senate Bill 273
TITLE: Peace Orders and Protective Orders – Military Protection Orders
COMMITTEE: Judicial Proceedings
HEARING DATE: January 30, 2025
POSITION: **Support**

The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) is the state domestic violence coalition that brings together victim service providers, allied professionals, and concerned individuals for the common purpose of reducing intimate partner and family violence and its harmful effects on our citizens. **MNADV urges the House Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 273.**

Senate Bill 273 would authorize a judge to consider whether a military protection order has been issued against a respondent when determining whether to grant a temporary peace order or a temporary protective order, and would require a law enforcement officer to notify a certain law enforcement agency that an individual may have violated a military protection order under certain circumstances. MNADV supports this bill as we understand from some of our member programs that the lack of communication between the military entities that issue military orders and the civil judiciary can cause victims to be unsafe, depending on where they are at a given time.

Under SB 273, a “military protection order” is defined as an Order issued in accordance with 10 U.S.C. § 1567 by a commanding officer against a person under the officer’s command.” SB 273 includes a broad variety of military entities. Maryland has quite a few military bases within its boundaries. When a service member commits abuse against an intimate partner, they can be subject to a military order of protection. However, it is our understanding that these military orders are only enforceable on base. If the military member is not on base and commits abuse on a victim, the victim’s recourse is to seek a civil peace or protection order from the courts of Maryland. It only makes sense that the two avenues of trying to provide safety to victims should know about each other. SB 273 would allow a civil judge to know if a military order has been issued when the judge is considering the petition in front of them. It would also cause law enforcement to notify the military entity that issued an order to know about the civil order under certain circumstances.

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For the above stated reasons, the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges a **favorable report on SB 273 in order to increase safety for survivors of domestic violence.**

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