

HOUSE BILL 163

P3

EMERGENCY BILL
ENROLLED BILL

(2lr0356)

— *Health and Government Operations/Education, Health, and Environmental
Affairs* —

Introduced by **Delegate Carr**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this
_____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, _____ M.

Speaker.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 ~~**Public Information Act – Required Denials – Sociological Information and**~~
3 ~~**Distribution Lists**~~

4 ***Department of Transportation – Notice of Entry Onto Private Property***

5 FOR the purpose of ~~prohibiting a definition of “sociological information” adopted in rules or~~
6 ~~regulations by an official custodian for certain purposes from including a certain~~
7 ~~notice or a list of the recipients of a certain notice; requiring a custodian to deny~~
8 ~~inspection under the Public Information Act of only a certain part of a certain~~
9 ~~distribution list, rather than the full distribution list; requiring a custodian to allow~~
10 ~~the inspection of a certain notice or a list of recipients of a certain notice under~~
11 ~~certain circumstances; requiring a custodian to provide certain information to a~~
12 ~~certain person inspecting a certain list under certain circumstances; requiring a~~
13 ~~certain notice to include certain instructions; prohibiting a person who receives a~~
14 ~~certain election from including certain information on a certain list inspected under~~

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.



~~this Act; defining “distribution list” to exclude a certain list of recipients; and generally relating to required denials under the Public Information Act. requiring the State Highway Administration or the Maryland Transit Administration to send a copy of a certain notice to members of the General Assembly under certain circumstances; and generally relating to notices of entry onto private property.~~

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – General Provisions
Section 4-330 and 4-341
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)~~

BY repealing and reenacting, ~~without~~ with amendments,
Article – Real Property
Section 12-111
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2015 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

~~Article – General Provisions~~

~~4-330.~~

~~(A) If the official custodian has adopted rules or regulations that define [sociological information], SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, “SOCIOLOGICAL INFORMATION” for purposes of this section, a custodian shall deny inspection of the part of a public record that contains sociological information, in accordance with the rules or regulations.~~

~~(B) A DEFINITION OF “SOCIOLOGICAL INFORMATION” ADOPTED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION MAY NOT INCLUDE A NOTICE, OR A LIST OF THE RECIPIENTS OF A NOTICE, GIVEN UNDER § 12-111 OF THE REAL PROPERTY ARTICLE.~~

~~4-341.~~

~~(a) (1) In this section[, “governmental”] THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.~~

~~(2) “DISTRIBUTION LIST” DOES NOT INCLUDE A LIST OF RECIPIENTS WHO HAVE RECEIVED A NOTICE UNDER § 12-111 OF THE REAL PROPERTY ARTICLE.~~

~~(3) “GOVERNMENTAL entity” means a unit or an instrumentality of the State or of a political subdivision.~~

1 ~~(b) A custodian shall deny inspection of THE PART OF a distribution list and a~~
 2 ~~request to be added to a distribution list that identifies a physical address, an e-mail~~
 3 ~~address, or a telephone number of an individual that is used by a governmental entity or~~
 4 ~~an elected official for the sole purpose of:~~

5 ~~(1) periodically sending news about the official activities of the~~
 6 ~~governmental entity or elected official; or~~

7 ~~(2) sending informational notices or emergency alerts.~~

8 ~~(c) A SUBJECT TO § 12-111(H) OF THE REAL PROPERTY ARTICLE, A~~
 9 ~~CUSTODIAN SHALL ALLOW THE INSPECTION OF A NOTICE, OR A LIST OF THE~~
 10 ~~RECIPIENTS OF A NOTICE, GIVEN UNDER § 12-111 OF THE REAL PROPERTY~~
 11 ~~ARTICLE ONLY ON RECEIPT OF:~~

12 ~~(1) A WRITTEN APPLICATION; AND~~

13 ~~(2) A STATEMENT, SIGNED UNDER OATH, THAT THE NOTICE OR LIST~~
 14 ~~IS NOT INTENDED TO BE USED FOR COMMERCIAL SOLICITATION.~~

15 ~~(d) THE CUSTODIAN OF A LIST INSPECTED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS~~
 16 ~~SECTION THAT HAS BEEN REDACTED UNDER § 12-111(H) OF THE REAL PROPERTY~~
 17 ~~ARTICLE SHALL INFORM THE PERSON INSPECTING THE LIST:~~

18 ~~(1) THAT THE LIST HAS BEEN REDACTED; AND~~

19 ~~(2) THE NUMBER OF RECIPIENTS WHOSE INFORMATION HAS BEEN~~
 20 ~~REDACTED FROM THE LIST.~~

21 Article – Real Property

22 12-111.

23 (a) Civil engineers, land surveyors, real estate appraisers, and their assistants
 24 acting on behalf of the State or of any of its instrumentalities or any body politic or corporate
 25 having the power of eminent domain after every real and bona fide effort to notify the owner
 26 or occupant in writing with respect to the proposed entry may:

27 (1) Enter on any private land to make surveys, run lines or levels, or obtain
 28 information relating to the acquisition or future public use of the property or for any
 29 governmental report, undertaking, or improvement;

30 (2) Set stakes, markers, monuments, or other suitable landmarks or
 31 reference points where necessary; and

1 (3) Enter on any private land and perform any function necessary to
2 appraise the property.

3 (b) If any civil engineer, surveyor, real estate appraiser, or any of their assistants
4 is refused permission to enter or remain on any private land for the purposes set out in
5 subsection (a) of this section, the person, the State, its instrumentality, or the body politic
6 or corporate on whose behalf the person is acting may apply to a law court of the county
7 where the property, or any part of it, is located for an order directing that the person be
8 permitted to enter on and remain on the land to the extent necessary to carry out the
9 purposes authorized by this section.

10 (c) If a civil engineer, surveyor, real estate appraiser, or any of their assistants
11 enters on any private land under the authority of this section or any court order passed
12 pursuant to it, and damages or destroys any land or personal property on it, the owner of
13 the property has a cause of action for damages against the civil engineer, surveyor, real
14 estate appraiser, or assistant and against the State, its instrumentality, or the body politic
15 or corporate on whose behalf the person inflicting the damage was acting.

16 (d) Any landowner or other person who willfully obliterates, damages, or removes
17 any stake, marker, monument, or other landmark set by any civil engineer, surveyor, or
18 real estate appraiser or any of their assistants acting pursuant to this section, except if the
19 stake, marker, monument, or other landmark interferes with the proper use of the property,
20 is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction shall be fined not more than \$500.

21 (e) Any person who has knowledge of an order issued pursuant to subsection (b)
22 and who obstructs any civil engineer, surveyor, real estate appraiser, or any of their
23 assistants acting under the authority of the order may be punished as for contempt of court.

24 (f) In Anne Arundel County, Montgomery County, or Baltimore City, an agent or
25 employee, or one or more assistants of the jurisdiction, after real and bona fide effort to
26 notify the occupant or the owner, if the land is unoccupied or if the occupant is not the
27 owner, may enter on any private land to make test borings and soil tests and obtain
28 information related to such tests for the purpose of determining the possibility of public use
29 of the property. If an agent, employee, or assistant is refused permission to enter or remain
30 on any private land for the purposes set out in this subsection, Anne Arundel County,
31 Montgomery County, or Baltimore City may apply to a law court of the jurisdiction where
32 the property or any part of it is located for an order directing that its agent, employee, or
33 assistant be permitted to enter and remain on the land to the extent necessary to carry out
34 the purposes authorized by this subsection. The court may require that the applying
35 jurisdiction post a bond in an amount sufficient to reimburse any person for damages
36 reasonably estimated to be caused by test borings, soil tests, and related activities. If any
37 person enters on any private land under the authority of this section or of any court order
38 passed pursuant to it and damages or destroys any land or personal property on it, the
39 owner of the property has a cause of action for damages against the jurisdiction that
40 authorized the entrance. Any person who knows of an order issued under this subsection
41 and who obstructs any agent, employee, or assistant acting under the authority of the order
42 may be punished for contempt of court.

(g) (1) The State Highway Administration, the Maryland Transit Administration, and the agents, employees, and consultants of the State Highway Administration and the Maryland Transit Administration may enter upon private property to conduct environmental and engineering studies, including soil boring and excavation, necessary to determine the suitability of the property for use by the administration entering the property. Entry onto private property for these purposes shall not be undertaken without prior consent of the property owner. If, after real and bona fide effort, the consent of the property owner cannot be secured, the administration seeking entry may apply to a law or equity court where the property or any part of it is located for an order directing that entry be permitted. "Bona fide effort" shall include either 30 days advance notice in writing by certified mail return receipt requested to the last known address of the property owner or posting notice on the property not less than 30 days in advance, and such other requirements as the court may deem appropriate. The administration entering the property, when removing, displacing, boring, or excavating soil under the provisions of this section, shall replace the topsoil in a manner which will approach the level of compaction and contour as when removed. An administration entering private property under the authority of this subsection shall reimburse the landowner or lessee who is farming the property for agricultural products destroyed or damaged by the administration's agents, employees, or consultants and shall be responsible for any other damages that may be incurred as a result of such entry on private property.

(2) WHEN THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION, THE MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION, OR AN AGENT, AN EMPLOYEE, OR A CONSULTANT OF THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION OR THE MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION GIVES NOTICE TO A PROPERTY OWNER OR POSTS NOTICE TO PROPERTY IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION OR THE MARYLAND TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION SHALL SEND A COPY OF THE NOTICE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS WHO REPRESENT THE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT IN WHICH THE PROPERTY IS LOCATED.

~~(H) (1) A NOTICE GIVEN UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL INCLUDE INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE RECIPIENT OF THE NOTICE TO OPT OUT OF INCLUSION OF THE RECIPIENT ON A LIST INSPECTED UNDER § 4-341(C) OF THE GENERAL PROVISIONS ARTICLE.~~

~~(2) A PERSON WHO RECEIVES AN ELECTION TO OPT OUT MADE UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION MAY NOT INCLUDE THE RECIPIENT WHO MADE THE ELECTION ON A LIST OF RECIPIENTS OF A NOTICE THAT IS INSPECTED UNDER § 4-341(C) OF THE GENERAL PROVISIONS ARTICLE.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to

1 each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is
2 enacted.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.