

HOUSE BILL 433

D4, E4, D2

0lr1247

By: **Prince George's County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: January 23, 2020

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Prince George's County – Office of the Sheriff – Response to Report of Alleged**
3 **Domestic Violence – Authorization**

4 **PG 309–20**

5 FOR the purpose of authorizing a law enforcement officer from the Prince George's County
6 Office of the Sheriff to respond to a report of alleged domestic violence under certain
7 circumstances; authorizing the Prince George's County Office of the Sheriff to
8 coordinate with certain other law enforcement agencies to carry out the provisions
9 of this Act; and generally relating to the response by law enforcement to requests for
10 help from victims of alleged domestic violence.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article – Family Law
13 Section 4–502
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2019 Replacement Volume)

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

18 **Article – Family Law**

19 4–502.

20 (a) (1) Any person who alleges to have been a victim of abuse and who believes
21 there is a danger of serious and immediate personal harm may request the help of a local
22 law enforcement unit.

23 (2) A local law enforcement officer who responds to the request for help
24 shall:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(i) protect the person from harm when responding to the request;
and

(ii) accompany the person to the family home so that the person may
remove the following items, regardless of who paid for the items:

1. the personal clothing of the person and of any child in the
care of the person; and

2. the personal effects, including medicine or medical
devices, of the person and of any child in the care of the person that the person or child
needs immediately.

(b) A law enforcement officer who responds to a request described in subsection
(a) of this section has the immunity from liability described under § 5–610 of the Courts
Article.

(c) (1) THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES ONLY IN PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY.

**(2) WHEN THE OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF SERVES AS THE 9–1–1 POINT
OF CONTACT IN A REQUEST FOR HELP FOR ALLEGED ABUSE UNDER SUBSECTION
(A)(1) OF THIS SECTION, A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER FROM THE OFFICE OF THE
SHERIFF MAY RESPOND DIRECTLY TO THE REQUEST FOR HELP.**

**(3) THE OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF MAY COORDINATE WITH COUNTY
LAW ENFORCEMENT AND MUNICIPAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO CARRY OUT
THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
October 1, 2020.