

HOUSE BILL 1096

D3, E2
HB 1125/18 – JUD

0lr3444

By: **Delegates W. Fisher, C. Jackson, J. Lewis, and Shetty**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2020

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Evidence – Chain of Custody – DNA Profile**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing that a certain report signed by a certain individual is
4 prima facie evidence of certain matters for a certain purpose under certain
5 circumstances; providing that a certain DNA profile may be established without the
6 necessity for a certain individual to personally appear in court under certain
7 circumstances; providing that certain provisions of law do not preclude the right of
8 any party to introduce any evidence supporting or contradicting certain evidence or
9 presumptions; providing that a certain statement is prima facie evidence that a
10 certain person had custody and made a certain delivery for a certain purpose;
11 requiring a certain statement to contain a certain description of certain material and
12 to state that certain material was delivered in a certain condition; authorizing a
13 certain statement to be placed on a certain document; requiring the prosecution, in
14 a criminal proceeding, to require the presence of a DNA analyst or other person as a
15 certain witness under certain circumstances; providing that certain provisions of law
16 do not apply to certain testimony; providing that certain provisions of law are
17 applicable in a criminal proceeding only under certain circumstances; providing that
18 certain provisions of law do not prevent a certain defendant from summoning a
19 certain witness; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the chain of custody
20 of DNA evidence.

21 BY adding to

22 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

23 Section 10–1007 through 10–1010 to be under the new part “Part III. DNA Evidence”

24 Annotated Code of Maryland

25 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

28 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 10-1005. RESERVED.

2 10-1006. RESERVED.

3 PART III. DNA EVIDENCE.

4 10-1007.

5 (A) IN THIS PART THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
6 INDICATED.

7 (B) "CHAIN OF CUSTODY" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 10-1002 OF THIS
8 SUBTITLE.

9 (C) "DEOXYRIBONUCLEIC ACID" OR "DNA" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN §
10 10-915 OF THIS TITLE.

11 (D) "DNA ANALYST" MEANS A CHEMIST OR AN ANALYST WHO PERFORMS A
12 TEST OR TESTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING A DNA PROFILE.

13 (E) "DNA PROFILE" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 10-915 OF THIS TITLE.

14 10-1008.

15 (A) FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING A DNA PROFILE IN A CRIMINAL
16 OR CIVIL PROCEEDING, A REPORT SIGNED BY THE DNA ANALYST WHO PERFORMED
17 THE TEST OR TESTS AS TO ITS NATURE IS PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE THAT THE
18 MATERIAL DELIVERED TO THE DNA ANALYST WAS PROPERLY TESTED UNDER
19 PROCEDURES APPROVED BY THE SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP ON DNA ANALYSIS
20 METHODS OR CONSISTENT WITH THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION'S
21 QUALITY ASSURANCE STANDARDS FOR FORENSIC DNA TESTING LABORATORIES
22 AND DNA DATABASING LABORATORIES, THAT THOSE PROCEDURES ARE LEGALLY
23 RELIABLE, THAT THE MATERIAL WAS DELIVERED TO THE DNA ANALYST BY THE
24 OFFICER OR PERSON STATED IN THE REPORT, AND THAT THE MATERIAL CONSISTED
25 OF OR CONTAINED THE SUBSTANCE STATED IN THE REPORT, IF THE REPORT:

26 (1) IDENTIFIES THE DNA ANALYST AS AN INDIVIDUAL QUALIFIED
27 UNDER STANDARDS APPROVED BY THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO
28 ANALYZE DNA;

29 (2) STATES THAT THE DNA ANALYST MADE AN ANALYSIS OF THE
30 MATERIAL UNDER PROCEDURES APPROVED BY THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF
31 HEALTH; AND

1 **(3) STATES THAT THE SUBSTANCE, IN THE OPINION OF THE DNA**
2 **ANALYST, CONSISTS OF OR CONTAINS THE PARTICULAR DNA PROFILE SPECIFIED.**

3 **(B) IF THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION ARE**
4 **FULFILLED, A DNA PROFILE MAY BE ESTABLISHED WITHOUT THE NECESSITY FOR**
5 **THE DNA ANALYST TO PERSONALLY APPEAR IN COURT.**

6 **(C) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION PRECLUDES THE RIGHT OF ANY PARTY TO**
7 **INTRODUCE ANY EVIDENCE SUPPORTING OR CONTRADICTING THE EVIDENCE**
8 **CONTAINED IN OR THE PRESUMPTIONS RAISED BY THE REPORT.**

9 **10-1009.**

10 **(A) FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING A CHAIN OF PHYSICAL CUSTODY**
11 **OR CONTROL OF EVIDENCE IN A CRIMINAL OR CIVIL PROCEEDING, A STATEMENT**
12 **SIGNED BY EACH SUCCESSIVE PERSON IN THE CHAIN OF PHYSICAL CUSTODY OR**
13 **CONTROL OF EVIDENCE, CONSISTING OF OR CONTAINING A SUBSTANCE TESTED OR**
14 **ANALYZED TO DETERMINE A DNA PROFILE, THAT THE PERSON DELIVERED IT TO**
15 **THE OTHER PERSON INDICATED ON OR ABOUT THE DATE STATED IS PRIMA FACIE**
16 **EVIDENCE THAT THE PERSON HAD CUSTODY AND MADE THE DELIVERY AS STATED,**
17 **WITHOUT THE NECESSITY OF A PERSONAL APPEARANCE IN COURT BY THE PERSON**
18 **SIGNING THE STATEMENT.**

19 **(B) THE STATEMENT SHALL CONTAIN A SUFFICIENT DESCRIPTION OF THE**
20 **MATERIAL OR ITS CONTAINER SO AS TO DISTINGUISH IT AS THE PARTICULAR ITEM**
21 **IN QUESTION AND SHALL STATE THAT THE MATERIAL WAS DELIVERED IN**
22 **ESSENTIALLY THE SAME CONDITION AS RECEIVED.**

23 **(C) THE STATEMENT MAY BE PLACED ON THE SAME DOCUMENT AS THE**
24 **REPORT PROVIDED FOR UNDER § 10-1008 OF THIS SUBTITLE.**

25 **(D) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION PRECLUDES THE RIGHT OF ANY PARTY TO**
26 **INTRODUCE ANY EVIDENCE SUPPORTING OR CONTRADICTING THE EVIDENCE**
27 **CONTAINED IN OR THE PRESUMPTION RAISED BY THE STATEMENT.**

28 **10-1010.**

29 **(A) (1) IN A CRIMINAL PROCEEDING, THE PROSECUTION SHALL, ON**
30 **WRITTEN DEMAND OF A DEFENDANT FILED IN THE PROCEEDINGS AT LEAST 10 DAYS**
31 **PRIOR TO A TRIAL IN THE PROCEEDING, REQUIRE THE PRESENCE OF THE DNA**
32 **ANALYST OR ANY PERSON IN THE CHAIN OF CUSTODY AS A PROSECUTION WITNESS.**

33 **(2) THE PROVISIONS OF §§ 10-1008 AND 10-1009 OF THIS SUBTITLE**

1 CONCERNING PRIMA FACIE EVIDENCE DO NOT APPLY TO THE TESTIMONY OF THAT
2 WITNESS.

3 (3) THE PROVISIONS OF §§ 10–1008 AND 10–1009 OF THIS SUBTITLE
4 ARE APPLICABLE IN A CRIMINAL PROCEEDING ONLY WHEN A COPY OF THE REPORT
5 OR STATEMENT TO BE INTRODUCED IS MAILED, DELIVERED, OR MADE AVAILABLE
6 TO COUNSEL FOR THE DEFENDANT, OR TO THE DEFENDANT PERSONALLY WHEN THE
7 DEFENDANT IS NOT REPRESENTED BY COUNSEL, AT LEAST 30 DAYS PRIOR TO THE
8 INTRODUCTION OF THE REPORT OR STATEMENT AT TRIAL.

9 (B) NOTHING CONTAINED IN THIS PART SHALL PREVENT THE DEFENDANT
10 FROM SUMMONING A WITNESS MENTIONED IN THIS PART AS A WITNESS FOR THE
11 DEFENSE.

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