

# HOUSE BILL 405

D3  
HB 867/14 – JUD

5lr1108  
CF SB 374

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By: **The Speaker (By Request – Office of the Attorney General) and Delegates Smith, Vallario, Rosenberg, Afzali, Anderson, Atterbeary, Barron, Beidle, Branch, Campos, Dumais, Fraser–Hidalgo, Frick, Frush, Gaines, Glenn, Hettleman, Hill, C. Howard, Jalisi, Kittleman, Kramer, Lafferty, Lierman, Lisanti, McCray, Moon, Morales, Oaks, Pena–Melnyk, Platt, B. Robinson, Sydnor, Tarlau, Turner, Valderrama, Valentino–Smith, Vaughn, Vogt, Waldstreicher, M. Washington, and Zucker**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2015

Assigned to: Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland False Claims Act**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting certain actions constituting false claims against a  
4 governmental entity; providing certain penalties for making false claims; requiring  
5 the court to consider and give special attention to certain factors in determining the  
6 amount of fines and penalties provided for in certain provisions of this Act; providing  
7 that this Act does not apply to certain claims, records, or statements; authorizing a  
8 person and a governmental entity to file a civil action against a person who makes a  
9 certain false claim under certain circumstances; providing for the procedures to be  
10 followed in the civil action and for certain remedies under the action; requiring the  
11 governmental entity to investigate a certain civil action; requiring the governmental  
12 entity to make certain efforts to coordinate certain investigations and to establish a  
13 certain objective for the governmental entity; authorizing the governmental entity  
14 to intervene and proceed with a certain civil action with or without the person who  
15 initiated the action; requiring the court to dismiss the action if the governmental  
16 entity elects not to intervene in the action; authorizing the governmental entity to  
17 pursue certain alternative remedies; providing certain limitations on civil actions  
18 filed under this Act; prohibiting a person from taking retaliatory action against an  
19 employee, a contractor, or an agent under certain circumstances; authorizing an  
20 employee, a contractor, or an agent to file a civil action against a person who takes  
21 retaliatory action against the employee, contractor, or agent under certain  
22 circumstances; providing certain remedies for retaliatory action; establishing that  
23 certain remedies provided under this Act are in addition to certain other appropriate  
24 legal and equitable relief; requiring the Comptroller to deposit a certain penalty or  
25 damages into the General Fund of the State; requiring the Office of the Attorney

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 General and the attorney for each county and Baltimore City to report certain  
 2 information annually to the General Assembly; defining certain terms; and generally  
 3 relating to false claims against governmental entities.

4 BY adding to

5 Article – General Provisions

6 Section 8–101 through 8–111 to be under the new title “Title 8. False Claims”

7 Annotated Code of Maryland

8 (2014 Volume)

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

11 **Article – General Provisions**

12 **TITLE 8. FALSE CLAIMS.**

13 **8–101.**

14 **(A) IN THIS TITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**  
 15 **INDICATED.**

16 **(B) (1) “CLAIM” MEANS A REQUEST OR DEMAND, UNDER A CONTRACT OR**  
 17 **OTHERWISE, FOR MONEY OR OTHER PROPERTY, WHETHER OR NOT THE**  
 18 **GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY HAS TITLE TO THE MONEY OR PROPERTY, THAT IS:**

19 **(I) PRESENTED TO AN OFFICER, EMPLOYEE, OR AGENT OF A**  
 20 **GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY; OR**

21 **(II) MADE TO A CONTRACTOR, A GRANTEE, OR ANOTHER**  
 22 **RECIPIENT, IF THE MONEY OR OTHER PROPERTY IS TO BE SPENT OR USED ON A**  
 23 **GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY’S BEHALF OR TO ADVANCE AN INTEREST OF A**  
 24 **GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY, AND THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY:**

25 **1. PROVIDES OR HAS PROVIDED ANY PORTION OF THE**  
 26 **MONEY OR OTHER PROPERTY REQUESTED OR DEMANDED; OR**

27 **2. WILL REIMBURSE THE CONTRACTOR, GRANTEE, OR**  
 28 **OTHER RECIPIENT FOR ANY PORTION OF THE MONEY OR OTHER PROPERTY THAT IS**  
 29 **REQUESTED OR DEMANDED.**

30 **(2) “CLAIM” DOES NOT INCLUDE REQUESTS OR DEMANDS FOR MONEY**  
 31 **OR OTHER PROPERTY THAT A GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY HAS PAID TO AN INDIVIDUAL**  
 32 **AS COMPENSATION FOR EMPLOYMENT OR AS AN INCOME SUBSIDY WITH NO**  
 33 **RESTRICTIONS ON THAT INDIVIDUAL’S USE OF THE MONEY OR OTHER PROPERTY.**

1 (C) "EMPLOYEE" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO PERFORMS SERVICES:

2 (1) FOR AND UNDER THE CONTROL AND DIRECTION OF AN  
3 EMPLOYER; AND

4 (2) UNDER AN EMPLOYER'S PROMISE OR IMPLIED PROMISE OF  
5 PAYMENT OF WAGES OR OTHER REMUNERATION.

6 (D) "EMPLOYER" MEANS A PERSON OR GROUP OF PERSONS THAT, ACTING  
7 DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY ON BEHALF OF ANOTHER PERSON OR GROUP OF  
8 PERSONS:

9 (1) ALLOWS AN EMPLOYEE TO PERFORM SERVICES UNDER THE  
10 EMPLOYER'S CONTROL AND DIRECTION; AND

11 (2) PROMISES OR IMPLIES THAT THE EMPLOYEE WILL RECEIVE  
12 WAGES OR OTHER REMUNERATION IN PAYMENT FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF THOSE  
13 SERVICES.

14 (E) "GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY" MEANS:

15 (1) THE STATE; OR

16 (2) A COUNTY.

17 (F) (1) "KNOWING" OR "KNOWINGLY" MEANS, WITH RESPECT TO  
18 INFORMATION AND WITHOUT REQUIRING PROOF OF SPECIFIC INTENT TO DEFRAUD,  
19 THAT A PERSON:

20 (I) HAS ACTUAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE INFORMATION;

21 (II) ACTS IN DELIBERATE IGNORANCE OF THE TRUTH OR  
22 FALSITY OF THE INFORMATION; OR

23 (III) ACTS IN RECKLESS DISREGARD OF THE TRUTH OR FALSITY  
24 OF THE INFORMATION.

25 (2) "KNOWING" OR "KNOWINGLY" DOES NOT MEAN, WITH RESPECT  
26 TO INFORMATION, THAT A PERSON ACTS IN A MANNER THAT CONSTITUTES A  
27 MISTAKE OR NEGLIGENCE.

1           **(G) “MATERIAL” MEANS HAVING A NATURAL TENDENCY TO INFLUENCE OR**  
2 **BE CAPABLE OF INFLUENCING THE PAYMENT OR RECEIPT OF MONEY OR OTHER**  
3 **PROPERTY.**

4           **(H) “OBLIGATION” MEANS AN ESTABLISHED DUTY, WHETHER OR NOT**  
5 **FIXED, ARISING FROM:**

6                   **(1) AN EXPRESS OR IMPLIED:**

7                           **(I) CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIP;**

8                           **(II) GRANTOR–GRANTEE RELATIONSHIP; OR**

9                           **(III) LICENSOR–LICENSEE RELATIONSHIP;**

10                   **(2) A FEE–BASED OR SIMILAR RELATIONSHIP;**

11                   **(3) STATUTE OR REGULATION; OR**

12                   **(4) THE RETENTION OF AN OVERPAYMENT.**

13           **(I) “PUBLIC BODY” MEANS:**

14                   **(1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR ANY OTHER ELECTED BODY;**

15                   **(2) A MEMBER OR AN EMPLOYEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR ANY**  
16 **OTHER ELECTED BODY;**

17                   **(3) A STATE COURT;**

18                   **(4) A MEMBER OR AN EMPLOYEE OF A STATE COURT;**

19                   **(5) A STATE OR LOCAL REGULATORY, ADMINISTRATIVE, OR PUBLIC**  
20 **AGENCY OR AUTHORITY;**

21                   **(6) AN INSTRUMENTALITY OF A STATE OR LOCAL REGULATORY,**  
22 **ADMINISTRATIVE, OR PUBLIC AGENCY OR AUTHORITY;**

23                   **(7) A STATE OR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY,**  
24 **PROSECUTORIAL OFFICE, OR POLICE OR PEACE OFFICER;**

25                   **(8) A STATE OR LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF AN EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF**  
26 **GOVERNMENT; OR**

1           **(9)**    A DIVISION, A BOARD, A BUREAU, AN OFFICE, A COMMITTEE, OR A  
2 COMMISSION OF ANY OF THE PUBLIC BODIES LISTED IN THIS SUBSECTION.

3           **(J)**    “RETALIATORY ACTION” MEANS:

4           **(1)**    DISCHARGING,    SUSPENDING,    DEMOTING,    THREATENING,  
5 HARASSING, OR DISCRIMINATING AGAINST AN EMPLOYEE, A CONTRACTOR, OR AN  
6 AGENT; OR

7           **(2)**    ANY OTHER ADVERSE ACTION TAKEN AGAINST AN EMPLOYEE, A  
8 CONTRACTOR, OR AN AGENT RELATING TO THE CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT,  
9 CONTRACT, OR AGENCY.

10          **(K)**    “SUPERVISOR” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WITHIN AN EMPLOYER’S  
11 ORGANIZATION WHO HAS THE AUTHORITY TO:

12          **(1)**    DIRECT AND CONTROL THE WORK PERFORMANCE OF AN  
13 EMPLOYEE; OR

14          **(2)**    TAKE CORRECTIVE ACTION REGARDING THE VIOLATION OF A LAW  
15 OR REGULATION THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF A COMPLAINT OR CHARGE UNDER THIS  
16 TITLE.

17    **8-102.**

18          **(A)**    THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO CLAIMS, RECORDS, OR STATEMENTS  
19 RELATED TO STATE OR LOCAL TAXES.

20          **(B)**    A PERSON MAY NOT:

21          **(1)**    KNOWINGLY PRESENT OR CAUSE TO BE PRESENTED A FALSE OR  
22 FRAUDULENT CLAIM FOR PAYMENT OR APPROVAL;

23          **(2)**    KNOWINGLY MAKE, USE, OR CAUSE TO BE MADE OR USED A FALSE  
24 RECORD OR STATEMENT MATERIAL TO A FALSE OR FRAUDULENT CLAIM;

25          **(3)**    CONSPIRE TO COMMIT A VIOLATION UNDER THIS TITLE;

26          **(4)**    HAVE POSSESSION, CUSTODY, OR CONTROL OF MONEY OR OTHER  
27 PROPERTY USED OR TO BE USED BY OR ON BEHALF OF A GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY  
28 AND KNOWINGLY DELIVER OR CAUSE TO BE DELIVERED TO THE GOVERNMENTAL  
29 ENTITY LESS THAN ALL OF THAT MONEY OR OTHER PROPERTY;

1           **(5) (I) BE AUTHORIZED TO MAKE OR DELIVER A RECEIPT OR**  
2 **OTHER DOCUMENT CERTIFYING RECEIPT OF MONEY OR OTHER PROPERTY USED OR**  
3 **TO BE USED BY A GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY; AND**

4           **(II) MAKE OR DELIVER A RECEIPT OR DOCUMENT INTENDING TO**  
5 **DEFRAUD THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY, KNOWING THAT THE INFORMATION**  
6 **CONTAINED IN THE RECEIPT OR DOCUMENT IS NOT TRUE;**

7           **(6) KNOWINGLY BUY OR RECEIVE AS A PLEDGE OF AN OBLIGATION OR**  
8 **A DEBT PUBLICLY OWNED PROPERTY FROM AN OFFICER, EMPLOYEE, OR AGENT OF**  
9 **A GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY WHO LAWFULLY MAY NOT SELL OR PLEDGE THE**  
10 **PROPERTY;**

11           **(7) KNOWINGLY MAKE, USE, OR CAUSE TO BE MADE OR USED A FALSE**  
12 **RECORD OR STATEMENT MATERIAL TO AN OBLIGATION TO PAY OR TRANSMIT MONEY**  
13 **OR OTHER PROPERTY TO A GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY;**

14           **(8) KNOWINGLY CONCEAL, OR KNOWINGLY AND IMPROPERLY AVOID**  
15 **OR DECREASE, AN OBLIGATION TO PAY OR TRANSMIT MONEY OR OTHER PROPERTY**  
16 **TO A GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY, INCLUDING MISREPRESENTING THE TIME AT WHICH**  
17 **A TRADE WAS MADE TO MAKE THE TRANSACTION APPEAR LESS FAVORABLE; OR**

18           **(9) KNOWINGLY MAKE ANY OTHER FALSE OR FRAUDULENT CLAIM**  
19 **AGAINST A GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY.**

20           **(C) (1) A PERSON THAT IS FOUND TO HAVE VIOLATED SUBSECTION (B) OF**  
21 **THIS SECTION IS LIABLE TO THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY FOR:**

22           **(I) A CIVIL PENALTY OF NOT MORE THAN \$10,000 FOR EACH**  
23 **VIOLATION; AND**

24           **(II) AN ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF NOT MORE THAN THREE TIMES**  
25 **THE AMOUNT OF DAMAGES THAT THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY SUSTAINS AS A**  
26 **RESULT OF THE ACTS OF THAT PERSON IN VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS**  
27 **SECTION.**

28           **(2) THE TOTAL AMOUNT OWED BY A PERSON UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)**  
29 **OF THIS SUBSECTION MAY NOT BE LESS THAN THE AMOUNT OF THE ACTUAL**  
30 **DAMAGES THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY INCURS AS A RESULT OF THE PERSON'S**  
31 **VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.**

32           **(D) IN DETERMINING THE APPROPRIATE AMOUNT OF FINES AND DAMAGES**  
33 **UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, THE COURT SHALL CONSIDER:**

1           (1) THE NUMBER, NATURE, AND SEVERITY OF THE VIOLATIONS OF  
2 THIS TITLE FOR WHICH THE PERSON HAS BEEN FOUND LIABLE;

3           (2) THE NUMBER, NATURE, AND SEVERITY OF ANY PREVIOUS  
4 VIOLATIONS OF THIS TITLE;

5           (3) THE DEGREE OF LOSS SUFFERED BY THE GOVERNMENTAL  
6 ENTITY;

7           (4) THE PERSON'S HISTORY OF BILLING COMPLIANCE;

8           (5) WHETHER THE PERSON HAS A COMPLIANCE PROGRAM IN PLACE;

9           (6) THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE PERSON HAS TAKEN STEPS TO  
10 ADDRESS AND CORRECT THE VIOLATION SINCE THE PERSON BECAME AWARE OF THE  
11 VIOLATION;

12           (7) ANY FUNDS PREVIOUSLY RETURNED TO THE GOVERNMENTAL  
13 ENTITY IN COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS REGARDING  
14 OVERPAYMENTS, TO THE EXTENT THE FUNDS REPRESENTED LOSSES TO THE  
15 GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY CAUSED BY THE VIOLATION;

16           (8) (I) WHETHER THE PERSON SELF-REPORTED THE VIOLATION;

17                   (II) THE TIMELINESS OF THE SELF-REPORTING;

18                   (III) THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE PERSON OTHERWISE  
19 COOPERATED IN THE INVESTIGATION OF THE VIOLATION; AND

20                   (IV) THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE PERSON HAD PRIOR  
21 KNOWLEDGE OF AN INVESTIGATION OR OTHER ACTION RELATING TO THE  
22 VIOLATION; AND

23           (9) ANY OTHER FACTOR AS JUSTICE REQUIRES.

24           (E) THE PENALTIES PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION ARE IN  
25 ADDITION TO ANY CRIMINAL, CIVIL, OR ADMINISTRATIVE PENALTIES PROVIDED  
26 UNDER ANY OTHER STATE OR FEDERAL STATUTE OR REGULATION.

27 **8-103.**

28           (A) IF A GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY FINDS THAT A PERSON HAS VIOLATED OR  
29 IS VIOLATING § 8-102 OF THIS TITLE, THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY MAY FILE A CIVIL

1 ACTION IN A COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION WITHIN THE STATE AGAINST THE  
2 PERSON.

3 (B) IN FILING A CIVIL ACTION UNDER THIS SECTION, THE GOVERNMENTAL  
4 ENTITY MAY SEEK:

5 (1) THE PENALTIES PROVIDED UNDER § 8-102(C) OF THIS TITLE; AND

6 (2) SUBJECT TO THE GUIDELINES SET FORTH IN § 8-105(A)(4) OF  
7 THIS TITLE, COURT COSTS AND ATTORNEY'S FEES.

8 (C) A GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY MAY NOT MAINTAIN AN ACTION UNDER THIS  
9 SECTION IF THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY HAS FILED A CIVIL ACTION BASED ON THE  
10 SAME UNDERLYING ACT UNDER § 2-603 OF THE HEALTH - GENERAL ARTICLE OR  
11 HAS SOUGHT ENFORCEMENT BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL UNDER § 11-205 OR §  
12 11-205.1 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

13 8-104.

14 (A) (1) (I) A PERSON MAY FILE A CIVIL ACTION ON BEHALF OF THE  
15 PERSON AND THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY IN A COURT OF COMPETENT  
16 JURISDICTION WITHIN THE STATE AGAINST A PERSON WHO HAS ACTED OR IS  
17 ACTING IN VIOLATION OF § 8-102 OF THIS TITLE.

18 (II) A CIVIL ACTION FILED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS  
19 PARAGRAPH SHALL BE BROUGHT IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY.

20 (2) A PERSON FILING AN ACTION UNDER THIS SECTION MAY SEEK:

21 (I) THE PENALTIES PROVIDED UNDER § 8-102(C) OF THIS  
22 TITLE; AND

23 (II) SUBJECT TO THE GUIDELINES SET FORTH IN §  
24 8-105(A)(4) OF THIS TITLE, COURT COSTS AND ATTORNEY'S FEES.

25 (3) (I) THE PERSON SHALL SERVE ON THE GOVERNMENTAL  
26 ENTITY A COPY OF THE COMPLAINT AND A WRITTEN DISCLOSURE OF  
27 SUBSTANTIALLY ALL MATERIAL EVIDENCE AND INFORMATION THAT THE PERSON  
28 POSSESSES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF TITLE 2 OF THE MARYLAND  
29 RULES FOR SERVING PROCESS ON THE STATE OR A LOCAL ENTITY.

30 (II) 1. THE COMPLAINT SHALL BE FILED IN CAMERA AND  
31 SHALL REMAIN UNDER SEAL FOR AT LEAST 60 DAYS.



1                   **2. THE COMPLAINT MAY NOT BE SERVED ON THE**  
2 **DEFENDANT UNTIL THE COMPLAINT IS UNSEALED AND THE COURT ORDERS THE**  
3 **COMPLAINT SERVED.**

4                   **3. WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY**  
5 **IS SERVED WITH THE COMPLAINT AND THE MATERIAL EVIDENCE AND**  
6 **INFORMATION, THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY MAY ELECT TO INTERVENE AND**  
7 **PROCEED WITH THE ACTION.**

8                   **(4) (I) FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN, THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY**  
9 **MAY MOVE THE COURT FOR EXTENSIONS OF THE TIME DURING WHICH THE**  
10 **COMPLAINT REMAINS UNDER SEAL UNDER PARAGRAPH (3)(II)1 OF THIS**  
11 **SUBSECTION.**

12                   **(II) ANY MOTIONS MADE UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS**  
13 **PARAGRAPH MAY BE SUPPORTED BY AFFIDAVITS OR OTHER SUBMISSIONS IN**  
14 **CAMERA.**

15                   **(5) (I) THE DEFENDANT MAY NOT BE REQUIRED TO ANSWER A**  
16 **COMPLAINT FILED UNDER THIS SECTION UNTIL AFTER THE COMPLAINT IS:**

17                   **1. UNSEALED AND ORDERED BY THE COURT TO BE**  
18 **SERVED; AND**

19                   **2. SERVED ON THE DEFENDANT IN ACCORDANCE WITH**  
20 **TITLE 2 OF THE MARYLAND RULES.**

21                   **(II) WHEN ANSWERING A COMPLAINT FILED UNDER THIS**  
22 **SECTION, A DEFENDANT SHALL FOLLOW THE TIME FRAMES AND OTHER PROVISIONS**  
23 **FOR FILING ANSWERS TO A COMPLAINT AS REQUIRED UNDER TITLE 2, CHAPTER 300**  
24 **OF THE MARYLAND RULES.**

25                   **(III) DURING THE PERIOD IN WHICH THE COMPLAINT IS UNDER**  
26 **SEAL, IF THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY'S INVESTIGATION REVEALS THAT THE ACT,**  
27 **TRANSACTION, OR OCCURRENCE THAT GAVE RISE TO THE ALLEGED VIOLATION OF**  
28 **THIS TITLE IS REASONABLY LIKELY TO BE CONTINUING, THE GOVERNMENTAL**  
29 **ENTITY SHALL NOTIFY THE DEFENDANT AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE WITHOUT**  
30 **JEOPARDIZING THE COURSE AND CONDUCT OF THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY'S OR**  
31 **THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S INVESTIGATION OF THE VIOLATION, COMPROMISING**  
32 **THE DEVELOPMENT OF EVIDENCE, OR VIOLATING ANY STATE OR FEDERAL LAW.**

33                   **(6) BEFORE THE LATER OF THE EXPIRATION OF THE 60-DAY PERIOD**  
34 **DURING WHICH THE COMPLAINT REMAINS UNDER SEAL UNDER PARAGRAPH (3)(II)1**

1 OF THIS SUBSECTION OR ANY EXTENSION OF THE 60-DAY PERIOD OBTAINED UNDER  
2 PARAGRAPH (4) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY SHALL:

3 (I) INTERVENE AND PROCEED WITH THE ACTION IN A COURT OF  
4 COMPETENT JURISDICTION WITHIN THE STATE; OR

5 (II) NOTIFY THE COURT THAT IT WILL NOT INTERVENE AND  
6 PROCEED WITH THE ACTION.

7 (7) IF THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY DOES NOT ELECT TO INTERVENE  
8 AND PROCEED WITH THE ACTION UNDER PARAGRAPH (6) OF THIS SUBSECTION,  
9 BEFORE UNSEALING THE COMPLAINT, THE COURT SHALL DISMISS THE ACTION.

10 (8) IF A PERSON INITIATES AN ACTION UNDER THIS SECTION, NO  
11 PERSON OTHER THAN THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY MAY INTERVENE IN THE ACTION  
12 OR INITIATE A RELATED ACTION BASED ON THE FACTS UNDERLYING THE PENDING  
13 ACTION.

14 (B) (1) IF THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY INTERVENES AND PROCEEDS  
15 WITH THE ACTION UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(6)(I) OF THIS SECTION:

16 (I) THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY SHALL HAVE THE PRIMARY  
17 RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROCEEDING WITH THE ACTION AND MAY NOT BE BOUND BY  
18 ANY ACT OF THE PERSON WHO INITIATED THE ACTION; AND

19 (II) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPHS (3) THROUGH (6) OF THIS  
20 SUBSECTION, THE PERSON WHO INITIATED THE ACTION MAY CONTINUE AS A PARTY  
21 TO THE ACTION.

22 (2) (I) DURING AN INVESTIGATION BY THE GOVERNMENTAL  
23 ENTITY CONDUCTED EITHER INDEPENDENTLY OR IN CONJUNCTION WITH A CIVIL  
24 ACTION FILED UNDER THIS TITLE, THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY SHALL HAVE THE  
25 SAME RIGHTS OF DISCOVERY AS A CIVIL LITIGANT IN THE CIRCUIT COURT UNDER  
26 TITLE 2, CHAPTER 400 OF THE MARYLAND RULES.

27 (II) A PERSON FROM WHOM THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY  
28 SEEKS DISCOVERY SHALL BE CONSIDERED A PARTY UNDER TITLE 2, CHAPTER 400  
29 OF THE MARYLAND RULES.

30 (3) (I) NOTWITHSTANDING THE OBJECTIONS OF THE PERSON  
31 INITIATING THE ACTION, THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY MAY ELECT AT ANY POINT TO  
32 WITHDRAW ITS INTERVENTION AS A PARTY TO THE ACTION.

1                   **(II) IF THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY ELECTS TO WITHDRAW AS A**  
2 **PARTY TO THE ACTION:**

3                   **1. THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY SHALL NOTIFY THE**  
4 **COURT AND THE PARTY INITIATING THE ACTION; AND**

5                   **2. THE COURT SHALL DISMISS THE ACTION.**

6                   **(4) NOTWITHSTANDING THE OBJECTIONS OF THE PERSON**  
7 **INITIATING THE ACTION, IF THE COURT DETERMINES AFTER A HEARING THAT A**  
8 **PROPOSED SETTLEMENT IS FAIR, ADEQUATE, AND REASONABLE UNDER THE**  
9 **CIRCUMSTANCES, THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY MAY SETTLE A CIVIL ACTION FILED**  
10 **UNDER THIS SECTION.**

11                   **(5) ON MOTION OF THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY OR THE DEFENDANT**  
12 **OR ON THE COURT’S OWN MOTION, THE COURT MAY IMPOSE LIMITATIONS ON THE**  
13 **PARTICIPATION OF THE PERSON INITIATING AN ACTION UNDER THIS SECTION IF:**

14                   **(I) THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY SHOWS THAT THE PERSON’S**  
15 **UNRESTRICTED PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTION WOULD:**

16                   **1. INTERFERE WITH OR UNDULY DELAY THE**  
17 **GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY IN ITS PURSUIT OF THE CIVIL ACTION; OR**

18                   **2. BE REPETITIOUS, IRRELEVANT, OR HARASSING TO**  
19 **THE DEFENDANT; OR**

20                   **(II) THE DEFENDANT SHOWS THAT UNRESTRICTED**  
21 **PARTICIPATION BY THE PERSON INITIATING THE ACTION WOULD HARASS THE**  
22 **DEFENDANT OR CAUSE THE DEFENDANT UNDUE BURDEN OR UNNECESSARY**  
23 **EXPENSE.**

24                   **(6) LIMITATIONS IMPOSED BY THE COURT UNDER PARAGRAPH (5) OF**  
25 **THIS SUBSECTION MAY INCLUDE:**

26                   **(I) A LIMITATION ON THE NUMBER OF WITNESSES THE PERSON**  
27 **MAY CALL TO TESTIFY;**

28                   **(II) A LIMITATION ON THE LENGTH OF THE TESTIMONY OF**  
29 **WITNESSES CALLED BY THE PERSON;**

30                   **(III) A LIMITATION ON THE PERSON’S CROSS-EXAMINATION OF**  
31 **WITNESSES; OR**

1 (IV) A LIMITATION ON THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PERSON IN  
2 THE LITIGATION.

3 (C) (1) INSTEAD OF PROCEEDING WITH A CIVIL ACTION FILED UNDER  
4 THIS TITLE, THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY MAY PURSUE ANY ALTERNATIVE REMEDY  
5 AVAILABLE TO THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY, INCLUDING ANY APPROPRIATE  
6 ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDING TO DETERMINE A CIVIL MONEY PENALTY.

7 (2) IF THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY SEEKS AN ALTERNATIVE REMEDY  
8 IN ANOTHER PROCEEDING AFTER INTERVENING IN A CIVIL ACTION FILED UNDER  
9 THIS SECTION, THE PERSON INITIATING THE ACTION SHALL HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS  
10 IN THE ALTERNATIVE PROCEEDING AS THE PERSON WOULD HAVE HAD IF THE CIVIL  
11 ACTION HAD CONTINUED UNDER THIS SECTION.

12 (3) (I) A FINDING OF FACT OR CONCLUSION OF LAW MADE IN ANY  
13 ALTERNATIVE PROCEEDING THAT HAS BECOME FINAL SHALL BE CONCLUSIVE ON  
14 ALL PARTIES TO AN ACTION FILED UNDER THIS TITLE.

15 (II) FOR PURPOSES OF SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS  
16 PARAGRAPH, A FINDING OR CONCLUSION IS FINAL IF:

17 1. IT HAS BEEN FINALLY DETERMINED ON APPEAL TO  
18 THE APPROPRIATE COURT OF THE STATE;

19 2. ALL TIME FOR FILING THE APPEAL WITH RESPECT TO  
20 THE FINDING OR CONCLUSION HAS EXPIRED; OR

21 3. THE FINDING OR CONCLUSION IS NOT SUBJECT TO  
22 JUDICIAL REVIEW.

23 (D) (1) ON A SHOWING IN CAMERA BY THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY THAT  
24 CERTAIN ACTIONS OF DISCOVERY BY THE PERSON INITIATING THE ACTION WOULD  
25 INTERFERE WITH THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY'S INVESTIGATION OR PROSECUTION  
26 OF A CRIMINAL OR CIVIL MATTER ARISING OUT OF THE SAME FACTS, THE COURT  
27 MAY STAY THE DISCOVERY FOR A PERIOD OF NOT MORE THAN 60 DAYS.

28 (2) THE COURT MAY EXTEND THE 60-DAY PERIOD ON A FURTHER  
29 SHOWING IN CAMERA THAT:

30 (I) THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY HAS PURSUED THE CRIMINAL  
31 OR CIVIL INVESTIGATION OR PROCEEDING WITH REASONABLE DILIGENCE; AND

1                   **(II) ANY PROPOSED DISCOVERY IN THE CIVIL ACTION WILL**  
2 **INTERFERE WITH THE ONGOING CRIMINAL OR CIVIL INVESTIGATION OR**  
3 **PROCEEDING.**

4 **8-105.**

5           **(A) (1) IF THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY INTERVENES AND PROCEEDS**  
6 **WITH AN ACTION FILED UNDER § 8-104 OF THIS TITLE AND THE GOVERNMENTAL**  
7 **ENTITY PREVAILS, THE COURT SHALL AWARD THE PERSON INITIATING THE ACTION**  
8 **AN AMOUNT THAT IS:**

9                   **(I) NOT LESS THAN 15% AND NOT MORE THAN 25% OF THE**  
10 **PROCEEDS OF THE ACTION OR SETTLEMENT OF THE CLAIM; AND**

11                   **(II) PROPORTIONAL TO THE AMOUNT OF TIME AND EFFORT**  
12 **THAT THE PERSON SUBSTANTIALLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE FINAL RESOLUTION OF**  
13 **THE CIVIL ACTION.**

14           **(2) (I) IF THE COURT FINDS THAT THE ACTION IS BASED**  
15 **PRIMARILY ON DISCLOSURES OF SPECIFIC INFORMATION RELATING TO**  
16 **ALLEGATIONS OR TRANSACTIONS IN A CRIMINAL, A CIVIL, OR AN ADMINISTRATIVE**  
17 **HEARING, IN A LEGISLATIVE OR AN ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT, A HEARING, AN**  
18 **AUDIT, OR AN INVESTIGATION, OR FROM THE NEWS MEDIA, THE COURT MAY MAKE**  
19 **AN AWARD TO THE PERSON INITIATING THE ACTION THAT:**

20                   **1. THE COURT CONSIDERS APPROPRIATE, TAKING INTO**  
21 **ACCOUNT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE INFORMATION AND THE ROLE OF THE PERSON**  
22 **INITIATING THE ACTION IN ADVANCING THE CASE TO LITIGATION; AND**

23                   **2. DOES NOT EXCEED 10% OF THE PROCEEDS OF THE**  
24 **ACTION.**

25                   **(II) THE INFORMATION DESCRIBED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF**  
26 **THIS PARAGRAPH DOES NOT INCLUDE INFORMATION DISCLOSED AND PROVIDED BY**  
27 **THE PERSON INITIATING THE ACTION.**

28           **(3) ANY PAYMENT TO A PERSON UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OR (2) OF**  
29 **THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE MADE FROM THE PROCEEDS OF THE ACTION.**

30           **(4) (I) IN ADDITION TO THE AMOUNT PROVIDED UNDER**  
31 **PARAGRAPHS (1) AND (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A COURT MAY AWARD THE PERSON**  
32 **INITIATING THE ACTION:**

1                   1.     AN AMOUNT FOR REASONABLE EXPENSES THAT THE  
2 COURT FINDS TO HAVE BEEN NECESSARILY INCURRED; AND

3                   2.     REASONABLE ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS.

4                   (II)    IN DETERMINING THE AMOUNT OF ANY AWARD UNDER  
5 SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE COURT SHALL CONSIDER THE  
6 AMOUNT OF ANY PENALTIES AND DAMAGES RECOVERED IN THE ACTION AND ANY  
7 OTHER FACTOR AS JUSTICE MAY REQUIRE.

8                   (III)   ANY EXPENSES, FEES, AND COSTS AWARDED UNDER THIS  
9 PARAGRAPH SHALL BE AWARDED AGAINST THE DEFENDANT.

10            (B)   (1)   IF A COURT FINDS THAT THE ACTION IS INITIATED BY A PERSON  
11 WHO PLANNED AND INITIATED OR OTHERWISE DELIBERATELY PARTICIPATED IN  
12 THE VIOLATION ON WHICH THE ACTION WAS BASED, THE COURT MAY, TO THE  
13 EXTENT IT CONSIDERS APPROPRIATE, REDUCE THE SHARE OF THE PROCEEDS OF  
14 THE ACTION THAT THE PERSON OTHERWISE WOULD HAVE RECEIVED UNDER THIS  
15 SECTION.

16                   (2)    IN REDUCING THE SHARE OF THE PROCEEDS OF THE PERSON  
17 INITIATING THE ACTION UNDER THIS SUBSECTION, THE COURT SHALL CONSIDER:

18                   (I)     THE ROLE OF THE PERSON IN ADVANCING THE CASE TO  
19 LITIGATION; AND

20                   (II)    ANY RELEVANT CIRCUMSTANCES RELATING TO THE  
21 UNDERLYING VIOLATION.

22                   (3)    (I)    IF THE PERSON INITIATING A CIVIL ACTION UNDER §  
23 8-104 OF THIS TITLE IS CONVICTED OF CRIMINAL CONDUCT ARISING FROM THE  
24 PERSON'S PARTICIPATION IN THE VIOLATION ON WHICH THE ACTION WAS BASED  
25 PRIOR TO A FINAL DETERMINATION OF THE ACTION, THE PERSON:

26                   1.     SHALL BE DISMISSED FROM THE ACTION; AND

27                   2.     MAY NOT RECEIVE ANY SHARE OF THE PROCEEDS OF  
28 THE ACTION.

29                   (II)    THE DISMISSAL OF THE PERSON INITIATING THE ACTION IN  
30 ACCORDANCE WITH THIS PARAGRAPH DOES NOT PREJUDICE THE RIGHT OF THE  
31 GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY TO CONTINUE THE ACTION.

1           **(4) IF THE PERSON INITIATING A CIVIL ACTION UNDER § 8-104 OF**  
2 **THIS TITLE IS CONVICTED OF CRIMINAL CONDUCT ARISING FROM THE PERSON'S**  
3 **PARTICIPATION IN THE VIOLATION ON WHICH THE ACTION WAS BASED AFTER THE**  
4 **PROCEEDS FROM THE ACTION ARE AWARDED TO THAT PERSON, THE COURT SHALL**  
5 **ORDER THE PERSON TO REPAY THE PROCEEDS PREVIOUSLY AWARDED.**

6           **(C) A COURT MAY AWARD REASONABLE ATTORNEY'S FEES AND EXPENSES**  
7 **TO A DEFENDANT AND AGAINST THE PERSON INITIATING THE ACTION IF:**

8           **(1) THE DEFENDANT PREVAILS IN THE ACTION; AND**

9           **(2) THE COURT FINDS THAT THE CLAIM OF THE PERSON INITIATING**  
10 **THE ACTION WAS BROUGHT PRIMARILY FOR PURPOSES OF HARASSMENT OR**  
11 **OTHERWISE WAS BROUGHT IN BAD FAITH.**

12 **8-106.**

13           **(A) NO COURT IN THIS STATE SHALL HAVE JURISDICTION OVER AN ACTION**  
14 **FILED UNDER § 8-104 OF THIS TITLE AGAINST ANY MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE**  
15 **BRANCH OR THE JUDICIARY OF THE STATE, ANY MEMBER OF THE GOVERNOR'S**  
16 **EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE COMPTROLLER, OR THE**  
17 **STATE TREASURER IF THE ACTION IS BASED ON EVIDENCE OR INFORMATION**  
18 **KNOWN TO THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY WHEN THE ACTION WAS FILED.**

19           **(B) A CIVIL ACTION MAY NOT BE BROUGHT UNDER THIS TITLE BY A PERSON**  
20 **WHO IS OR WAS A PUBLIC EMPLOYEE OR PUBLIC OFFICIAL IF THE ALLEGATIONS OF**  
21 **THE ACTION ARE BASED SUBSTANTIALLY ON:**

22           **(1) ALLEGATIONS OF WRONGDOING OR MISCONDUCT THAT THE**  
23 **PERSON HAD A DUTY OR AN OBLIGATION TO REPORT OR INVESTIGATE WITHIN THE**  
24 **SCOPE OF THE PERSON'S PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT OR OFFICE; OR**

25           **(2) INFORMATION OR RECORDS TO WHICH THE PERSON HAD ACCESS**  
26 **AS A RESULT OF THE PERSON'S PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT OR OFFICE.**

27           **(C) A PERSON MAY NOT BRING AN ACTION UNDER § 8-104 OF THIS TITLE**  
28 **THAT IS BASED ON ALLEGATIONS OR TRANSACTIONS THAT ARE THE SUBJECT OF A**  
29 **CIVIL ACTION OR AN ADMINISTRATIVE CIVIL MONEY PENALTY PROCEEDING IN**  
30 **WHICH THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY IS ALREADY A PARTY.**

31           **(D) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPHS (2) AND (3) OF THIS**  
32 **SUBSECTION, NO COURT IN THIS STATE SHALL HAVE JURISDICTION OVER AN**  
33 **ACTION FILED UNDER § 8-104 OF THIS TITLE THAT IS BASED ON THE PUBLIC**  
34 **DISCLOSURE OF ALLEGATIONS OR TRANSACTIONS:**

1 (I) IN A CRIMINAL, A CIVIL, OR AN ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING;

2 (II) IN A LEGISLATIVE OR AN ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT, A  
3 HEARING, AN AUDIT, OR AN INVESTIGATION; OR

4 (III) FROM THE NEWS MEDIA.

5 (2) PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT APPLY IF THE  
6 ACTION IS INITIATED BY A PERSON THAT:

7 (I) HAS DIRECT AND INDEPENDENT KNOWLEDGE OF THE  
8 INFORMATION ON WHICH THE ALLEGATIONS ARE BASED; AND

9 (II) HAS VOLUNTARILY PROVIDED THE INFORMATION TO THE  
10 GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY BEFORE FILING AN ACTION UNDER § 8-104 OF THIS TITLE  
11 THAT IS BASED ON THE INFORMATION.

12 (3) A GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY, THROUGH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL,  
13 MAY FILE A CIVIL ACTION UNDER § 8-103 OF THIS TITLE BASED ON A PUBLIC  
14 DISCLOSURE DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

15 (E) THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY IS NOT LIABLE FOR EXPENSES THAT A  
16 PERSON INCURS IN BRINGING AN ACTION UNDER § 8-104 OF THIS TITLE.

17 (F) A PERSON THAT IS OR WAS EMPLOYED BY THE STATE, A LOCAL  
18 GOVERNMENT, OR ANY OTHER POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE AS AN  
19 AUDITOR, AN INVESTIGATOR, AN ATTORNEY, A FINANCIAL OFFICER, OR A  
20 CONTRACTING OFFICER MAY NOT BRING AN ACTION UNDER § 8-104 OF THIS TITLE  
21 THAT IS BASED ON ALLEGATIONS OR TRANSACTIONS THAT THE PERSON  
22 DISCOVERED OR LEARNED OF WHILE ACTING IN THE PERSON'S CAPACITY AS AN  
23 AUDITOR, AN INVESTIGATOR, AN ATTORNEY, A FINANCIAL OFFICER, OR A  
24 CONTRACTING OFFICER FOR THE STATE, LOCAL GOVERNMENT, OR OTHER  
25 POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE.

26 8-107.

27 (A) A PERSON MAY NOT TAKE A RETALIATORY ACTION AGAINST AN  
28 EMPLOYEE, A CONTRACTOR, OR A GRANTEE BECAUSE THE EMPLOYEE,  
29 CONTRACTOR, OR GRANTEE:

30 (1) ACTS LAWFULLY IN FURTHERANCE OF AN ACTION FILED UNDER  
31 THIS TITLE, INCLUDING AN INVESTIGATION FOR, INITIATION OF, TESTIMONY FOR,  
32 OR ASSISTANCE IN AN ACTION FILED OR TO BE FILED UNDER THIS TITLE;



1           **(2) DISCLOSES OR THREATENS TO DISCLOSE TO A SUPERVISOR OR TO**  
2 **A PUBLIC BODY AN ACTIVITY, A POLICY, OR A PRACTICE OF THE PERSON THAT THE**  
3 **EMPLOYEE, CONTRACTOR, OR GRANTEE REASONABLY BELIEVES IS IN VIOLATION OF**  
4 **§ 8-102 OF THIS TITLE OR A REGULATION ADOPTED UNDER THIS TITLE;**

5           **(3) PROVIDES INFORMATION TO, OR TESTIFIES BEFORE, A PUBLIC**  
6 **BODY CONDUCTING AN INVESTIGATION, A HEARING, OR AN INQUIRY INTO A**  
7 **VIOLATION OF § 8-102 OF THIS TITLE OR A REGULATION ADOPTED UNDER THIS**  
8 **TITLE THAT IS ALLEGEDLY OR ACTUALLY COMMITTED BY THE PERSON; OR**

9           **(4) OBJECTS TO OR REFUSES TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY ACTIVITY,**  
10 **POLICY, OR PRACTICE THAT THE EMPLOYEE, CONTRACTOR, OR GRANTEE**  
11 **REASONABLY BELIEVES IS IN VIOLATION OF § 8-102 OF THIS TITLE OR A**  
12 **REGULATION ADOPTED UNDER THIS TITLE.**

13           **(B) (1) AN EMPLOYEE, A CONTRACTOR, OR A GRANTEE MAY FILE A CIVIL**  
14 **ACTION AGAINST A PERSON OTHER THAN A SUPERVISOR IN STATE GOVERNMENT,**  
15 **AN APPOINTING AUTHORITY IN STATE GOVERNMENT, OR THE HEAD OF A PRINCIPAL**  
16 **UNIT IN STATE GOVERNMENT IF THE PERSON TAKES A RETALIATORY ACTION**  
17 **AGAINST THE EMPLOYEE, CONTRACTOR, OR GRANTEE IN VIOLATION OF**  
18 **SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.**

19           **(2) THE EMPLOYEE, CONTRACTOR, OR GRANTEE MAY SEEK IN THE**  
20 **CIVIL ACTION:**

21                   **(I) AN INJUNCTION TO RESTRAIN A CONTINUING VIOLATION OF**  
22 **SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION;**

23                   **(II) REINSTATEMENT TO THE SAME SENIORITY STATUS HELD**  
24 **BEFORE THE RETALIATORY ACTION;**

25                   **(III) REINSTATEMENT OF FULL FRINGE BENEFITS AND**  
26 **SENIORITY RIGHTS;**

27                   **(IV) TWO TIMES THE AMOUNT OF LOST WAGES, BENEFITS, AND**  
28 **OTHER REMUNERATION, INCLUDING ANY INTEREST ACCUMULATED;**

29                   **(V) PAYMENT BY THE PERSON OF REASONABLE COSTS AND**  
30 **ATTORNEY'S FEES;**

31                   **(VI) PUNITIVE DAMAGES;**

32                   **(VII) AN ASSESSMENT OF A CIVIL PENALTY:**

1                   1.     NOT EXCEEDING \$1,000 FOR THE FIRST VIOLATION;  
2 AND

3                   2.     NOT EXCEEDING \$5,000 FOR EACH SUBSEQUENT  
4 VIOLATION; AND

5                   (VIII) ANY OTHER RELIEF NECESSARY TO MAKE THE EMPLOYEE,  
6 CONTRACTOR, OR GRANTEE WHOLE.

7                   (3)    THE REMEDIES PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION DO NOT  
8 DIMINISH OR AFFECT THE RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES, OR REMEDIES AVAILABLE TO THE  
9 EMPLOYEE, CONTRACTOR, OR GRANTEE UNDER:

10                  (I)    ANY OTHER FEDERAL OR STATE STATUTE OR REGULATION;  
11 OR

12                  (II)   ANY COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT OR EMPLOYEE  
13 CONTRACT.

14                  (C)    A STATE EMPLOYEE WHO IS SUBJECT TO RETALIATORY ACTION IN  
15 VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION MAY FILE A COMPLAINT UNDER  
16 TITLE 5, SUBTITLE 3 OF THE STATE PERSONNEL AND PENSIONS ARTICLE.  
17 8-108.

18                  (A)    A CIVIL ACTION FILED UNDER THIS TITLE MAY NOT BE FILED AFTER THE  
19 LATER OF:

20                   (1)    6 YEARS AFTER THE DATE ON WHICH THE UNDERLYING  
21 VIOLATION OF § 8-102 OF THIS TITLE OCCURRED; OR

22                   (2)    3 YEARS AFTER THE DATE WHEN FACTS MATERIAL TO THE RIGHT  
23 OF ACTION ARE KNOWN OR REASONABLY SHOULD HAVE BEEN KNOWN BY THE  
24 PERSON INITIATING THE ACTION OR THE OFFICIAL OF THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY  
25 CHARGED WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACTING UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

26                  (B)    A CIVIL ACTION MAY BE FILED UNDER THIS TITLE FOR ACTIVITY THAT  
27 OCCURRED BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2015, IF THE LIMITATIONS PERIOD UNDER  
28 SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION HAS NOT LAPSED.

29                  (C)    IF THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY ELECTS TO INTERVENE AND PROCEED  
30 WITH AN ACTION BROUGHT UNDER THIS TITLE, THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY,

1 THROUGH THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OR THE ATTORNEY FOR THE  
2 LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY, MAY:

3 (1) FILE ITS OWN COMPLAINT; OR

4 (2) AMEND THE COMPLAINT OF THE PERSON THAT BROUGHT THE  
5 ACTION TO CLARIFY, ADD DETAIL TO THE COMPLAINT, OR ADD ADDITIONAL CLAIMS  
6 TO THE COMPLAINT.

7 (D) TO THE EXTENT THAT THE CLAIM OF THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY  
8 ARISES OUT OF THE CONDUCT, TRANSACTIONS, OR OCCURRENCES SET FORTH, OR  
9 ATTEMPTED TO BE SET FORTH BY A PERSON, A PLEADING BY THE GOVERNMENTAL  
10 ENTITY RELATES BACK TO THE FILING DATE OF THE COMPLAINT OF THE PERSON  
11 THAT ORIGINALLY BROUGHT THE ACTION.

12 (E) IN AN ACTION FILED UNDER THIS TITLE, ALL ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF  
13 THE CAUSE OF ACTION, INCLUDING DAMAGES, SHALL BE PROVEN BY A  
14 PREPONDERANCE OF THE EVIDENCE.

15 (F) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW OR RULE OF  
16 PROCEDURE OR EVIDENCE IN THE MARYLAND RULES, A FINAL JUDGMENT  
17 RENDERED IN FAVOR OF THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY IN ANY CRIMINAL  
18 PROCEEDING CHARGING FRAUD OR FALSE STATEMENTS, WHETHER ON A VERDICT  
19 AFTER TRIAL OR ON A PLEA OF GUILTY OR NOLO CONTENDERE, SHALL STOP THE  
20 DEFENDANT FROM DENYING THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF THE OFFENSE IN ANY  
21 ACTION FILED UNDER THIS TITLE THAT INVOLVES THE SAME ACT, TRANSACTION, OR  
22 OCCURRENCE AS IN THE CRIMINAL PROCEEDING.

23 8-109.

24 (A) ANY REMEDY PROVIDED UNDER THIS TITLE IS IN ADDITION TO ANY  
25 OTHER APPROPRIATE LEGAL OR EQUITABLE RELIEF PROVIDED UNDER ANY OTHER  
26 APPLICABLE STATE OR FEDERAL STATUTE OR REGULATION.

27 (B) (1) THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY SHALL MAKE ALL REASONABLE  
28 EFFORTS TO COORDINATE ANY INVESTIGATION OF AN ALLEGED VIOLATION UNDER  
29 THIS TITLE WITH ANY INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT  
30 INVOLVING THE SAME VIOLATION.

31 (2) THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY'S OBJECTIVE SHALL BE TO AVOID  
32 UNNECESSARY DUPLICATION OF EFFORT ON THE PART OF THE PERSON ALLEGED TO  
33 HAVE COMMITTED THE VIOLATION AND TO MINIMIZE THE BURDEN OF THE  
34 INVESTIGATION ON THE PERSON.

1           **(C) THE COMPTROLLER SHALL DEPOSIT ANY CIVIL PENALTY OR DAMAGES**  
2 **COLLECTED BY THE STATE UNDER THIS TITLE INTO THE GENERAL FUND OF THE**  
3 **STATE.**

4 **8-110.**

5           **(A) BEGINNING OCTOBER 1, 2016, THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY**  
6 **GENERAL AND THE ATTORNEY FOR EACH COUNTY SHALL REPORT ANNUALLY TO**  
7 **THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE**  
8 **GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FOR THE PREVIOUS**  
9 **FISCAL YEAR:**

10           **(1) THE NUMBER OF CIVIL ACTIONS FILED UNDER THIS TITLE;**

11           **(2) THE NUMBER OF CIVIL ACTIONS UNDER THIS TITLE IN WHICH A**  
12 **JUDGMENT WAS ENTERED, WHETHER BY SETTLEMENT OR ADJUDICATION; AND**

13           **(3) THE NUMBER OF CLAIMS MADE BY THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY**  
14 **BASED ON ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF § 8-102 OF THIS TITLE THAT ARE SETTLED**  
15 **WITHOUT THE FILING OF A CIVIL ACTION UNDER THIS TITLE.**

16           **(B) UNLESS THE ACTION IS UNDER SEAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH §**  
17 **8-104 OF THIS TITLE, FOR EACH CIVIL ACTION REPORTED UNDER SUBSECTION**  
18 **(A)(1) OR (2) OF THIS SECTION, THE REPORT SHALL STATE:**

19           **(1) WHETHER THE ACTION WAS FILED BY THE GOVERNMENTAL**  
20 **ENTITY OR BY A PERSON ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY AND, IF FILED**  
21 **BY A PERSON, WHETHER THE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY INTERVENED AND**  
22 **PROCEEDED WITH THE ACTION;**

23           **(2) THE NAME OF THE DEFENDANT;**

24           **(3) A DESCRIPTION OF THE VIOLATION OR ALLEGED VIOLATION OF §**  
25 **8-102 OF THIS TITLE; AND**

26           **(4) THE AMOUNT SOUGHT IN THE ACTION AND, IF APPLICABLE, THE**  
27 **AMOUNT FOR WHICH THE DEFENDANT IS LIABLE UNDER A SETTLEMENT**  
28 **AGREEMENT OR COURT ORDER.**

29           **(C) FOR EACH CLAIM REPORTED UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(3) OF THIS**  
30 **SECTION, THE REPORT SHALL STATE:**

31           **(1) A DESCRIPTION OF THE VIOLATION OR ALLEGED VIOLATION OF §**  
32 **8-102 OF THIS TITLE;**

1           **(2) THE RESOLUTION OF THE CLAIM;**

2           **(3) THE AMOUNT, IF ANY, THE PERSON AGAINST WHOM THE CLAIM**  
3 **WAS MADE AGREED TO PAY IN SETTLEMENT OF THE CLAIM; AND**

4           **(4) THE AMOUNT, IF ANY, COLLECTED BY THE GOVERNMENTAL**  
5 **ENTITY.**

6 **8-111.**

7           **THIS TITLE MAY BE CITED AS THE MARYLAND FALSE CLAIMS ACT.**

8           **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect**  
9 **October 1, 2015.**