

27-101.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, any person convicted of a misdemeanor for the violation of any of the provisions of the Maryland Vehicle Law is subject to a fine of not more than \$500.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2002.

Approved May 16, 2002.

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## CHAPTER 504

### (House Bill 329)

AN ACT concerning

#### Health Care Worker Whistleblower Protection Act

FOR the purpose of prohibiting an employer from ~~retaliating or discriminating taking or refusing to take certain personnel actions~~ against certain licensed or certified employees who disclose unlawful behavior or refuse to participate in unlawful behavior; providing that certain protections under this Act apply only if certain licensed or certified employees have a good faith belief that the employer is engaged in unlawful activity and that the unlawful activity poses a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety; requiring that prior to reporting to a health board, a licensed or certified employee report the unlawful activity in writing to the employer and provide the employer a reasonable opportunity to correct the unlawful activity or that the licensed or certified employee follow a certain corporate compliance plan; authorizing certain licensed or certified employees to institute a civil action in the county where a certain violation occurred, where the licensed or certified employee resides, or where the employer maintains its principal office in the State; requiring that a licensed or certified employee file a civil action under this Act within 1 year after the retaliatory personnel action occurred or within 1 year after the employee first became aware of the retaliatory personnel action; establishing the remedies a court may impose; providing a defense that the personnel action was based on grounds other than those protected under this Act; ~~providing for the waiver of certain rights or remedies under this Act; exempting an employee licensed or certified by certain boards from certain employee whistleblower protection provisions applicable to State employees~~ exempting certain employees from the provisions of this Act; and generally relating to the Health Care Worker Whistleblower's Protection Act.

BY adding to

Article - Health Occupations

Section 1-401 through ~~1-407~~ 1-406, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 4. Health Care Worker Whistleblower Protection Act"