

(1989 Volume and 1991 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article — Business Occupations and Professions
 Section 10-206(b)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (1989 Volume and 1991 Supplement)

Preamble

~~WHEREAS, The prevalence of domestic violence continues to threaten the emotional and physical welfare of the citizens and communities of the State of Maryland; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The devastating effects of domestic violence imperil the sanctity of the home, resulting in serious, often fatal physical injury, emotional trauma, and dislocation of thousands of Maryland many families from their homes each year; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The intergenerational cycle of violence creates a debilitating environment for the emotional and physical well being of children, and ultimately can cause generations of domestic abuse; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The State of Maryland recognizes that the legal remedies available to the myriad victims of family violence are limited and inadequate in providing emergency financial and injunctive relief, often rendering the victims helpless to escape the escalating violence; and~~

~~WHEREAS, It is incumbent upon the State to address the inadequacies of the legal system, and to ensure that all Marylanders are afforded adequate and appropriate protection under the law, in an effort to break the cycle of violence and reduce the incidence of these crimes; now, therefore,~~

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

Article – Family Law

4-501.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) (1) “Abuse” means any of the following acts [committed by a household member against another household member]:

(i) an act that causes serious bodily harm;

(ii) an act that places ~~another~~ A PERSON ELIGIBLE FOR RELIEF in fear of imminent serious bodily harm;

~~(iii) OR IMMINENT THREAT OF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING~~
 ACTS: