

CHAPTER 562

(Senate Bill 475)

AN ACT concerning

Police Authority - Hostage and Barricade Situations

FOR the purpose of permitting telephone company employees and certain law enforcement officers to interrupt, reroute, divert, or otherwise control telephone communications service in certain hostage and barricade situations; providing certain procedures for those actions; and relating generally to police authority in hostage and barricade situations.

BY adding to

Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings
Section 10-413
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1974 Volume and 1979 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows:

Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings

10-413.

(A) ~~THE CHIEF-LAW-ENFORCEMENT-OFFICER-OF-THIS-STATE-OR SUPERINTENDENT OF THE MARYLAND STATE POLICE OR THE COMMANDER OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OF ANY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THIS STATE MAY DESIGNATE ONE OR MORE OF--THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS UNDER--HIS--COMMAND AS A HOSTAGE AND BARRICADE COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST.~~

(B) EACH TELEPHONE COMPANY PROVIDING SERVICE TO MARYLAND RESIDENTS SHALL DESIGNATE ONE OR MORE INDIVIDUALS TO PROVIDE LIAISON WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION.

(C) THE SUPERVISING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, WHO HAS JURISDICTION IN ANY SITUATION IN WHICH THERE IS PROBABLE CAUSE TO BELIEVE THAT THE CRIMINAL ENTERPRISE OF HOSTAGE HOLDING IS OCCURRING OR THAT A PERSON HAS BARRICADED HIMSELF WITHIN A STRUCTURE AND POSES AN IMMEDIATE THREAT OF PHYSICAL INJURY TO OTHERS, MAY ORDER A TELEPHONE COMPANY, OR A TELEPHONE COMPANY EMPLOYEE, OFFICER, OR DIRECTOR, OR A HOSTAGE AND BARRICADE COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST OR TO INTERRUPT, REROUTE, DIVERT, OR OTHERWISE CONTROL ANY TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE INVOLVED IN THE HOSTAGE OR BARRICADE SITUATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF PREVENTING TELEPHONE COMMUNICATION BY A HOSTAGE HOLDER OR BARRICADED PERSON WITH