

CHAPTER 850

(House Bill 616)

AN ACT concerning

Classified Employees - Disclosure and Confidentiality
Protection

FOR the purpose of prohibiting certain reprisals for certain disclosures made by a classified employee or an applicant for classified employment; establishing procedures for the filing and handling of certain complaints arising from such reprisals; directing the Secretary of Personnel to take certain remedial measures under certain circumstances; providing for a hearing under certain circumstances; permitting certain relief; providing for judicial review; protecting the confidentiality of certain information; directing the Attorney General to receive certain confidential information and take certain actions regarding that information; directing the Secretary to make certain reports; providing limited criminal and civil immunity to an employee who makes a disclosure to the Attorney General; and providing that nothing in this Act shall abridge any action for defamation or invasion of privacy.

BY adding to

Article 64A - Merit System
Section 12F through ~~12J~~ 12K, inclusive, to be under the
new subtitle "Employee Disclosure and
Confidentiality Protection"
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1972 Replacement Volume and 1979 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article 76A - Public Information
Section 5(e)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1975 Replacement Volume and 1979 Supplement)

Preamble

The General Assembly finds that the interests of the citizens of Maryland demand a government which operates in accordance with the law and in avoidance of mismanagement, monetary waste, abuse of authority, and danger to public health and safety. In furtherance of these goals, it is essential that classified State employees be free to disclose impropriety in exercise of their constitutional right of free speech.