

WHEREAS, It is the intention of the General Assembly to grant the news media an unqualified privilege not to reveal sources of information, and a qualified privilege not to disclose information, whether published or unpublished, transmitted or not transmitted; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly grants these privileges to the news media to promote the overall freedom of this State's gatherers and disseminators of information, to give the news media a free and unfettered flow of information, to perpetuate the necessarily confidential relationship between news gatherers and their sources of information, and to protect the public interest; now, therefore,

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

Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings

[9-112.

A person engaged in, connected with, or employed on a newspaper or journal or for any radio station, television station, press association, news agency, or wire service may not be compelled to disclose, in any legal proceeding or trial or before any committee of the legislature or elsewhere, the source of any news or information that was obtained by the person for purposes of publication in a newspaper or journal or for purposes of dissemination by a radio station, television station, press association, news agency, or wire service where the person is engaged, connected with or employed.]

9-112.

(A) IN THIS SECTION "NEWS MEDIA" MEANS:

- (1) NEWSPAPERS;
- (2) MAGAZINES;
- (3) JOURNALS;
- (4) PRESS ASSOCIATIONS;
- (5) NEWS AGENCIES;
- (6) WIRE SERVICES;
- (7) RADIO;
- (8) TELEVISION; AND