Approved May 26, 1994.

CHAPTER 469

(Senate Bill 221)

AN ACT concerning

Domestic Violence

FOR the purpose of clarifying the bases on which protection against domestic violence may be sought for a child or vulnerable adult; altering certain requirements relating to forwarding certain petitions alleging abuse of a child or vulnerable adult and requiring the forwarding of certain orders; clarifying that adopted individuals are entitled to protection; clarifying various residency requirements; enabling a court to extend an ex parte order for a certain time for certain reasons; allowing a protective order hearing to be continued for certain reasons; specifying that a court may consider certain support guidelines; altering certain provisions relating to service of a protective order; repealing provisions for petitions for modification of protective orders; continuing the effect of, and providing for the modification and enforcement of a District Court order after filing of an appeal to a circuit court under certain circumstances; repealing a prohibition on a certain filing fee; making stylistic changes; and generally relating to protection against domestic violence.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Family Law

Section 4–501(b), (e), (h)(3), (4), and (5), and (i)(2)(ii)3, 4–504(d)(1). _4–504(d)_, 4–505(a)(2)(iv) and (vi) and (c)(2), 4–506(b)(2), (d)(4) and (8), and (f), 4–507(b), and 4–508

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1991 Replacement Volume and 1993 Supplement)

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

Article – Family Law

4–501.

(b) (1) "Abuse" means any of the following acts:

(i) an act that causes serious bodily harm;

(ii) an act that places a person eligible for relief in fear of imminent serious bodily harm;

(iii) battery or assault {and battery};

(iv) rape or sexual offense as defined by Article 27, §§ 462 through 464C or attempted rape or sexual offense; OR