

(g) Any person who violates subsection (c) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$2,500, imprisonment not exceeding 6 months, or both.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the General Assembly that the Baltimore County Board of Education, working with the State Department of Education, develop its own local policies regarding the use of portable pagers and cellular telephones on public school property during school hours and, in enacting Section 1 of this Act, it is not the intent of the General Assembly to encourage the use of portable pagers and cellular telephones on public school property during school hours.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect ~~October~~ July 1, 2002.

Approved May 6, 2002.

CHAPTER 403

(House Bill 1024)

AN ACT concerning

State Government - Public Information Act - Access to Public Records

FOR the purpose of requiring an official custodian of public records to consider whether to designate certain public records to be made immediately available upon request and to maintain a list of those public records; waiving the requirement for certain persons and governmental units to submit a written application to review certain public records; requiring the custodian of certain public records to follow certain notification procedures to an applicant requesting certain public records, if the public records do not exist ~~or the application for disclosure of public records does not reasonably describe the public record~~; providing for certain considerations that a custodian of public records may take into account when determining whether to grant an application for public records; altering the damages that may be awarded for failing to comply with a request for public records; defining the burden of proof that must be met in order for the court to award certain damages for failing to comply with a request for public records; altering the damages that may be awarded for permitting the inspection or use of certain public records in violation of certain provisions of law; defining the burden of proof that must be met in order for the court to award certain damages for permitting the inspection or use of certain public records under certain circumstances; providing clarification of certain provisions of the Maryland Public Information Act; defining certain terms; providing for the construction of this Act; and generally relating to the access of public records under the Maryland Public Information Act.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,