

Sincerely,
Parris N. Glendening
Governor

House Bill No. 394

AN ACT concerning

Architects - Emergencies - Voluntary Practice of Architecture - Immunity

FOR the purpose of providing that a licensed architect is not liable for any loss caused by an act, error, or omission of the licensed architect while practicing architecture if the act, error, or omission was not wanton, willful, or intentional and the practice of architecture was performed voluntarily and without compensation, at the scene of an emergency, disaster, or catastrophic event, and at the request of a certain official acting in an official capacity under certain circumstances; limiting the immunity provided by this Act; providing for the application of this Act; defining certain terms; and generally relating to certain immunity for licensed architects who voluntarily and without compensation practice architecture at the scene of an emergency, disaster, or catastrophic event.

BY adding to

Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings

Section 5-426

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1995 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

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

Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings

5-426.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) "BUILDING INSPECTION OFFICIAL" MEANS ANY APPOINTED OR ELECTED FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL OFFICIAL WITH OVERALL EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBILITY TO COORDINATE BUILDING INSPECTION IN THE JURISDICTION IN WHICH AN EMERGENCY, DISASTER, OR CATASTROPHIC EVENT HAS OCCURRED.

(3) "FIRE OFFICIAL" MEANS ANY APPOINTED OR ELECTED LOCAL OFFICIAL WITH OVERALL EXECUTIVE RESPONSIBILITY TO COORDINATE FIRE, RESCUE, OR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE JURISDICTION IN WHICH A FIRE, EMERGENCY, DISASTER, OR CATASTROPHIC EVENT HAS OCCURRED.

(4) "LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL" MEANS ANY APPOINTED OR ELECTED FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL OFFICIAL WITH OVERALL EXECUTIVE