



Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence

Legislative Alert

FROM: Cynthia Lifson, Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence

DATE: March 21, 2014

On **Wednesday, March 26, 2014**, **SB 41 ■ Domestic Violence - Persons Eligible for Relief**, will be heard by the House Judiciary Committee at a cross-over hearing. SB 41 is one of the MNADV's priority bills for the 2014 session of the Maryland General Assembly.

SB 41 alters the definition of persons eligible for relief (PEFR) in our **protective order statute** to ***include an individual who has had either a consensual or nonconsensual sexual relationship with the respondent.***

It provides the same relief for those who are engaged in ***dating relationships*** and who have had experienced intimate partner violence as all other people who are listed as persons eligible for relief under the protective order statute.

Under current law, individuals who seek protection from abuse and who do not live together or do not have a family relationship are now only eligible for relief under the peace order statute. The relief available under the peace order statute is less comprehensive than the relief available in the protective order statute.

This adjustment in the law clarifies our public policy so that intimate partner violence – whether it is the result of a marriage or familial relationship or of a sexual relationship – is treated in the same way. We protect all citizens dealing with this problem equally and offer them the same opportunity for relief in situations where abuse has occurred.

We urge you to **contact the members of the House Judiciary Committee no later than March 26 to request a favorable report on SB 41.**

The contact information for members of the House Judiciary Committee is attached.



Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence

Judiciary Committee (JUD)

House Office Building, 6 Bladen St., Annapolis
 (410) 841-3488, (301) 858-3488; 1-800-492-7122, ext. 3488 (toll free)

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All House Addresses: 6 Bladen Street, Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

To e-mail the entire Judiciary Committee – copy and paste:

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