

SENATE BILL 344

E1, D3, C3
SB 288/23 – JPR

4lr1779
CF 4lr1857

By: **Senator Waldstreicher**

Introduced and read first time: January 15, 2024

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal and Civil Trespass – Professional Land Surveyors – Exception**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing exceptions to certain criminal prohibitions against
4 trespass on property and the civil tort of trespass for professional land surveyors,
5 and agents and employees of professional land surveyors, who enter the property of
6 another to practice land surveying; and generally relating to professional land
7 surveyors and the criminal and civil law on trespass.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

10 Section 5–427

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

13 BY adding to

14 Article – Criminal Law

15 Section 6–412

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

21 **5–427.**

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2) "PRACTICE LAND SURVEYING" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS
2 PROVIDED IN § 15-101 OF THE BUSINESS OCCUPATIONS AND PROFESSIONS
3 ARTICLE.

4 (3) "PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR" MEANS A LAND SURVEYOR
5 WHO IS LICENSED BY THE STATE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS TO
6 PRACTICE LAND SURVEYING.

7 (B) A PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR, OR AN AGENT OR EMPLOYEE OF A
8 PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR, WHO ENTERS A PROPERTY TO PRACTICE LAND
9 SURVEYING MAY NOT BE HELD LIABLE UNDER THE COMMON LAW TORT OF
10 TRESPASS.

11 (C) THIS SECTION DOES NOT:

12 (1) AFFECT, AND MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED AS AFFECTING, ANY
13 IMMUNITIES FROM CIVIL LIABILITY OR DEFENSES ESTABLISHED BY ANY OTHER
14 PROVISION OF THE CODE OR AVAILABLE AT COMMON LAW OR EQUITY TO WHICH A
15 PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR, OR AN AGENT OR EMPLOYEE OF A PROFESSIONAL
16 LAND SURVEYOR, MAY BE ENTITLED; OR

17 (2) IMPAIR THE RIGHT OF A PERSON TO SEEK REDRESS UNDER ANY
18 OTHER PROVISION OF THE CODE OR AT COMMON LAW OR EQUITY FOR CONDUCT BY
19 A PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR, OR AN AGENT OR EMPLOYEE OF A
20 PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR, THAT IS OTHERWISE ACTIONABLE.

21 Article – Criminal Law

22 **6-412.**

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

25 (2) "PRACTICE LAND SURVEYING" HAS THE SAME MEANING AS
26 PROVIDED IN § 15-101 OF THE BUSINESS OCCUPATIONS AND PROFESSIONS
27 ARTICLE.

28 (3) "PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR" MEANS A LAND SURVEYOR
29 WHO IS LICENSED BY THE STATE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS TO
30 PRACTICE LAND SURVEYING.

31 (B) THIS SUBTITLE DOES NOT APPLY TO A PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR,
32 OR AN AGENT OR EMPLOYEE OF A PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR, WHO ENTERS A
33 PROPERTY TO PRACTICE LAND SURVEYING.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 October 1, 2024.