

# HOUSE BILL 21

E1, E4

4lr0455

(PRE-FILED)

---

By: **Delegate Conaway**

Requested: September 3, 2013

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2014

Assigned to: Judiciary

---

## A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

### **Criminal Law – Causing Injury by Failure to Obey a 9–1–1 Operator – Penalties**

FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from willfully disobeying a lawful instruction from a 9–1–1 operator responding to the person’s call for emergency assistance if the person is capable of obeying the instruction, obeying the instruction would not place the person or another person in danger of physical harm, and the failure to obey the instruction directly leads to another’s bodily harm or property damage; establishing penalties for a violation of this Act; and generally relating to obeying instructions from a 9–1–1 operator.

BY adding to

Article – Public Safety

Section 7–404

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2011 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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

#### **Article – Public Safety**

**7–404.**

**(A) A PERSON MAY NOT WILLFULLY DISOBEY A LAWFUL INSTRUCTION FROM A 9–1–1 OPERATOR RESPONDING TO THE PERSON’S CALL FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE IF:**

**(1) THE PERSON IS CAPABLE OF OBEYING THE INSTRUCTION;**

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



**(2) OBEYING THE INSTRUCTION WOULD NOT PLACE THE PERSON OR ANOTHER PERSON IN DANGER OF PHYSICAL HARM; AND**

**(3) THE FAILURE TO OBEY THE INSTRUCTION DIRECTLY LEADS TO ANOTHER'S BODILY HARM OR PROPERTY DAMAGE.**

**(B) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 1 YEAR OR A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$2,500 OR BOTH.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2014.