

HOUSE BILL 65

E1

4lr0397

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Delegate Tarrant**

Requested: August 13, 2013

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2014

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Criminal Law – Harassment – Penalties and Prohibition Applied to Neighborhood Watch

FOR the purpose of increasing the penalty for a first and second or subsequent violation of the prohibition against harassment; clarifying that the prohibition against harassing another person applies to a member of a neighborhood watch organization; and generally relating to harassment.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Criminal Law
Section 3–803
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2012 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 – Criminal Law

3–803.

(a) A person, **INCLUDING A MEMBER OF A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH ORGANIZATION**, may not follow another in or about a public place or maliciously engage in a course of conduct that alarms or seriously annoys the other:

- (1) with the intent to harass, alarm, or annoy the other;
- (2) after receiving a reasonable warning or request to stop by or on behalf of the other; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(3) without a legal purpose.

(b) This section does not apply to a peaceable activity intended to express a political view or provide information to others.

(c) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to:

(1) for a first offense, imprisonment not exceeding ~~[90]~~ **180** days or a fine not exceeding \$500 or both; and

(2) for a second or subsequent offense, imprisonment not exceeding ~~[180 days]~~ **1 YEAR** or a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or both.

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