

HOUSE BILL 50

E1

6lr0649

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Delegate Arentz**

Requested: September 2, 2015

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2016

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Hate Crimes – Prohibitions and Protected Classes – Expansion to Law**
3 **Enforcement Officers and First Responders**

4 FOR the purpose of including law enforcement officers and first responders within the scope
5 of certain prohibitions against committing certain crimes against certain persons,
6 damaging certain property of certain persons, burning certain objects, and damaging
7 certain buildings with which certain persons or groups have contacts or associations
8 or under circumstances exhibiting animosity against a certain person or group;
9 defining certain terms; and generally relating to hate crimes against law
10 enforcement officers and first responders.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article – Criminal Law
13 Section 10–301, 10–304, and 10–305
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Criminal Law**

19 10–301.

20 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

21 (b) **“FIRST RESPONDER” MEANS A PERSON ENGAGED IN PROVIDING**
22 **EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE OR RESCUE SERVICES, INCLUDING A FIREFIGHTER, AN**
23 **EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN, OR A RESCUE SQUAD MEMBER.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (C) “Homeless” means:

2 (1) lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; or

3 (2) having a primary nighttime residence that is:

4 (i) a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to
5 provide temporary living accommodations; or

6 (ii) a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a
7 regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

8 (D) **“LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 3-201**
9 **OF THIS ARTICLE.**

10 [(c)] (E) “Sexual orientation” means the identification of an individual as to
11 male or female homosexuality, heterosexuality, bisexuality, or gender-related identity.

12 10-304.

13 Because of another’s race, color, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, gender,
14 disability, or national origin, or because another is homeless, **A LAW ENFORCEMENT**
15 **OFFICER, OR A FIRST RESPONDER**, a person may not:

16 (1) (i) commit a crime or attempt to commit a crime against that
17 person;

18 (ii) damage the real or personal property of that person;

19 (iii) deface, damage, or destroy, or attempt to deface, damage, or
20 destroy the real or personal property of that person; or

21 (iv) burn or attempt to burn an object on the real or personal property
22 of that person; or

23 (2) commit a violation of item (1) of this section that:

24 (i) except as provided in item (ii) of this item, involves a separate
25 crime that is a felony; or

26 (ii) results in the death of the victim.

27 10-305.

1 A person may not deface, damage, or destroy, attempt to deface, damage, or destroy,
2 burn or attempt to burn an object on, or damage the real or personal property connected to
3 a building that is publicly or privately owned, leased, or used, including a cemetery, library,
4 meeting hall, recreation center, or school:

5 (1) because a person or group of a particular race, color, religious belief,
6 sexual orientation, gender, disability, or national origin[, or because a person or group that
7 is homeless,] has contacts or is associated with the building; [or]

8 **(2) BECAUSE A PERSON OR GROUP THAT IS HOMELESS HAS CONTACTS**
9 **OR IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE BUILDING;**

10 **(3) BECAUSE A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, GROUP OF LAW**
11 **ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, FIRST RESPONDER, OR GROUP OF FIRST RESPONDERS**
12 **HAS CONTACTS OR IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE BUILDING; OR**

13 ~~[(2)]~~ (4) if there is evidence that exhibits animosity against a person or
14 group[, because of the race, color, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, gender, disability, or
15 national origin of that person or group or because that person or group is homeless]:

16 **(I) BECAUSE OF THE RACE, COLOR, RELIGIOUS BELIEFS,**
17 **SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER, DISABILITY, OR NATIONAL ORIGIN OF THAT**
18 **PERSON OR GROUP;**

19 **(II) BECAUSE THAT PERSON OR GROUP IS HOMELESS; OR**

20 **(III) BECAUSE THAT PERSON IS A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER**
21 **OR A FIRST RESPONDER, OR BECAUSE THAT GROUP CONSISTS OF LAW**
22 **ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS OR FIRST RESPONDERS.**

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
24 October 1, 2016.