

Chapter 537

(House Bill 493)

AN ACT concerning

Criminal Law – Extortion – Immigration Status

FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from committing a certain act of extortion by wrongful use of actual or threatened notification of law enforcement officials about another person's undocumented or illegal immigration status; and generally relating to extortion.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Criminal Law
 Section 3–701
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

Article – Criminal Law

3–701.

(a) This section does not apply to legitimate efforts by employees or their representatives to obtain certain wages, hours, or working conditions.

(b) A person may not obtain, attempt to obtain, or conspire to obtain money, property, labor, services, or anything of value from another person with the person's consent, if the consent is induced by wrongful use of actual or threatened:

(1) force or violence;

(2) economic injury; [or]

(3) destruction, concealment, removal, confiscation, or possession of any immigration or government identification document with intent to harm the immigration status of another person; **OR**

(4) NOTIFICATION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS ABOUT ANOTHER PERSON'S UNDOCUMENTED OR ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION STATUS.

(c) (1) If the value of the property, labor, or services is at least \$1,000 but less than \$10,000, a person who violates this section is guilty of the felony of extortion and on

conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 10 years or a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or both.

(2) If the value of the property, labor, or services is at least \$10,000 but less than \$100,000, a person who violates this section is guilty of the felony of extortion and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 15 years or a fine not exceeding \$15,000 or both.

(3) If the value of the property, labor, or services is \$100,000 or more, a person who violates this section is guilty of the felony of extortion and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 25 years or a fine not exceeding \$25,000 or both.

(d) If the value of the property, labor, or services is less than \$1,000, a person who violates this section is guilty of the misdemeanor of extortion and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 18 months or a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or both.

(e) A prosecution for a felony under this section shall be instituted within 5 years after the crime was committed.

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

Approved by the Governor, May 19, 2016.