

# HOUSE BILL 525

E1

8lr1105

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By: **Delegate Sydnor**

Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2018

Assigned to: Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Law – False Statement to Law Enforcement Officer – Exemption**

3 FOR the purpose of providing that a certain prohibition against making a false statement,  
4 report, or complaint does not apply to a situation in which a government entity or its  
5 agents were the subject of a statement, report, or complaint and the government  
6 entity initiated or conducted the investigation and determined that the statement,  
7 report, or complaint was false; and generally relating to false statements.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

9 Article – Criminal Law

10 Section 9–501

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Criminal Law**

16 9–501.

17 (a) **THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A SITUATION IN WHICH:**

18 **(1) A GOVERNMENT ENTITY OR ITS AGENTS WERE THE SUBJECT OF A**  
19 **FALSE STATEMENT, REPORT, OR COMPLAINT; AND**

20 **(2) THE GOVERNMENT ENTITY THAT WAS THE SUBJECT OF THE FALSE**  
21 **STATEMENT, REPORT, OR COMPLAINT INITIATED OR CONDUCTED THE**  
22 **INVESTIGATION THAT DETERMINED THAT THE STATEMENT, REPORT, OR**  
23 **COMPLAINT WAS FALSE.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(B)** A person may not make, or cause to be made, a statement, report, or complaint  
2 that the person knows to be false as a whole or in material part, to a law enforcement officer  
3 of the State, of a county, municipal corporation, or other political subdivision of the State,  
4 or of the Maryland–National Capital Park and Planning Police with intent to deceive and  
5 to cause an investigation or other action to be taken as a result of the statement, report, or  
6 complaint.

7           **[b] (C)** A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on  
8 conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 6 months or a fine not exceeding \$500  
9 or both.

10           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
11 October 1, 2018.