

HOUSE BILL 1243

E1

0lr0744
CF 0lr0745

By: **Delegate Cox**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2020

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Criminal Law – Hate Crimes (John Weed Dignity Act)

FOR the purpose of prohibiting certain criminal conduct by a person against another person or group because of the other person's or group's age or speech, or because of the other person's or group's refusal to donate or otherwise provide money or a thing of value on demand; and generally relating to hate crimes.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Criminal Law

Section 10–304

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

Article – Criminal Law

10–304.

Because of another person's or group's race, color, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, gender, disability, [or] national origin, **AGE, OR SPEECH**, or because another person or group is homeless **OR REFUSES TO DONATE MONEY OR A THING OF VALUE ON DEMAND**, a person may not:

- (1) (i) commit a crime or attempt or threaten to commit a crime against that person or group;
- (ii) deface, damage, or destroy, or attempt or threaten to deface,

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



damage, or destroy the real or personal property of that person or group; [or]

(iii) burn or attempt or threaten to burn an object on the real or personal property of that person or group; **OR**

(IV) INTENTIONALLY THROW, SPIT, PLACE, SMEAR, OR EJECT BODILY FLUIDS OR EXCREMENT ON THAT PERSON OR GROUP OR ATTEMPT TO THROW, SPIT, PLACE, SMEAR, OR EJECT BODILY FLUIDS OR EXCREMENT ON THAT PERSON OR GROUP; or

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

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

(ii) results in the death of a victim.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2020.