

SENATE BILL 1180

E1

4lr3548

By: **Senator Simonaire**

Introduced and read first time: February 20, 2024

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Law – Threats Against Government Officials and Employees –**
3 **Expansion**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from making certain threats to the immediate
5 family members of certain government officials and government employees; and
6 generally relating to the prohibition against threats against State or local officials
7 and employees.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Criminal Law
10 Section 3–708
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 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 3–708.

17 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

18 (2) **“IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER” INCLUDES:**

19 **(I) A PARENT;**

20 **(II) A SPOUSE; AND**

21 **(III) A CHILD.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(3)** “Local official” means an individual serving in a publicly elected office
2 of a local government unit, as defined in § 10–101 of the State Government Article.

3 **[(3)] (4)** (i) “State official” has the meaning stated in § 5–101 of the
4 General Provisions Article.

5 (ii) “State official” includes the Governor, Governor–elect,
6 Lieutenant Governor, and Lieutenant Governor–elect.

7 **[(4)] (5)** “Threat” includes:

8 (i) an oral threat; or

9 (ii) a threat in any written form, whether or not the writing is signed,
10 or if the writing is signed, whether or not it is signed with a fictitious name or any other
11 mark.

12 (b) A person may not knowingly and willfully make a threat to take the life of,
13 kidnap, or cause physical injury to:

14 **(1)** a State official[.];

15 **(2)** a local official[.];

16 **(3)** a deputy State’s Attorney[.];

17 **(4)** an assistant State’s Attorney[, or];

18 **(5)** an assistant Public Defender; **OR**

19 **(6) AN IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER OF AN INDIVIDUAL LISTED IN**
20 **ITEMS (1) THROUGH (5) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

21 (c) A person may not knowingly send, deliver, part with, or make for the purpose
22 of sending or delivering a threat prohibited under subsection (b) of this section.

23 (d) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction
24 is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or a fine not exceeding \$2,500 or both.

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
26 October 1, 2024.