



February 17 2026

HB 0750 - FWA

Criminal Law - Interference With Access to or Egress From a Religious Facility - Prohibition

Dear Chair [J. Sandy Bartlett](#), Vice Chair [Debra Davis](#), and Members of the Judiciary Committee

This bill establishes a misdemeanor to discourage deliberate interference with access to religious facilities. However, this is not a problem unique to religious facilities. Blocking access to non-religious facilities similarly interferes with the free exercise of non-religious activities and undermines the operation of non-religious facilities. There is no reasonable justification to limit this protection only to places of worship, religious educational facilities, and religious community centers. The right to protest does not entail a right to deliberately block others from proceeding with their preferred life activities at either religious or secular facilities. Secular Maryland advocates for providing the same legal protections for all citizen use of all functionally similar facilities. Accordingly, we request that this bill be amended to provide the same legal protections for all nonprofit facilities by extending the same protection for the operation of all non-profit facilities, all educational facilities, and all community centers.

Mathew Goldstein
3838 Early Glow Ln
Bowie, MD