

SENATE BILL 53

Unofficial Copy
E4

1998 Regular Session
8lr6022

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Chairman, Judicial Proceedings Committee (Departmental - State
Police, Dept. of)**

Requested: October 8, 1997

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 1998

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 11, 1998

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2

Crimes - Fraudulent Title

3 FOR the purpose of adding vehicle titles to the list of documents for which it is a
4 crime to counterfeit or forge; adding vehicle titles to the list of documents for
5 which it is a crime to utter or publish; creating a provision for the unlawful
6 possession of vehicle titles; establishing penalties for unlawful possession of
7 vehicle titles; and generally relating to fraudulent vehicle titles.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments
10 Section 44
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (1996 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

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

15 **Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments**

16 44.

17 (a) Any person who shall falsely make, forge or counterfeit, or cause or procure
18 to be falsely made, forged or counterfeited, or willingly aid or assist in falsely making,
19 forging, altering or counterfeiting any deed, TITLE TO MOTOR VEHICLE, document or
20 affidavit of waiver or release of mechanics' lien, will, testament or codicil, power of
21 attorney, bond, writing obligatory, bill of exchange, promissory note for the payment

1 of money or property, endorsement or assignment of any bond, writing obligatory, bill
2 of exchange, promissory note for the payment of money or property, acquittance or
3 receipt for money or property, or any acquisition or receipt either for money or for
4 property, or any entries in a book of account or ledger, with intention to defraud any
5 person whomsoever, shall be deemed a felon, and upon conviction, shall be sentenced
6 to imprisonment for not more than 10 years or fined not more than \$1,000 or both.

7 (b) Any person who shall utter or publish as true any false, forged, altered or
8 counterfeited deed, TITLE TO MOTOR VEHICLE, will, testament or codicil, power of
9 attorney, bond, writing obligatory, bill of exchange, promissory note for the payment
10 of money or property, or endorsement, or assignment of any bond, writing obligatory,
11 bill of exchange, promissory note for the payment of money or property, acquittance or
12 receipt for money or property, or shall utter or publish as true, with intention to
13 defraud any person whomsoever any false document of waiver or release of
14 mechanics' lien, or any entries in a book of account or ledger, shall be deemed a felon,
15 and on being convicted thereof shall be sentenced to the penitentiary for not more
16 than 10 years or fined not more than \$1,000, or both.

17 (C) ANY PERSON WHO SHALL KNOWINGLY POSSESS, WITH UNLAWFUL
18 INTENT, ANY FORGED, COUNTERFEITED, OR ALTERED TITLE TO A MOTOR VEHICLE
19 SHALL BE GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND, UPON CONVICTION, SHALL BE
20 SENTENCED TO IMPRISONMENT FOR NOT MORE THAN 3 YEARS OR FINED NOT MORE
21 THAN \$1,000 OR BOTH.

22 [(c)] (D) Any person who shall knowingly possess, with unlawful intent, or
23 utter forged, counterfeit, or altered United States currency shall be guilty of a
24 misdemeanor, and upon conviction, shall be sentenced to imprisonment for not more
25 than 3 years or fined not more than \$1,000 or both.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
27 effect October 1, 1998.