

SENATE BILL 10

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1999 Regular Session
9lr0236

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Senator Green**

Requested: July 29, 1998

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 1999

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Crimes - Threats Against Local Officials**

3 FOR the purpose of altering a provision that prohibits threats against certain local
4 officials; expanding the definition of "local official" to include certain appointed
5 officials; and generally relating to threats against certain officials.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments
8 Section 561A
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (1996 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
12 Article - State Government
13 Section 10-101(d)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (1995 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

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

18 **Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments**

19 561A.

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

21 (2) "Local official" means an individual serving in [a] AN APPOINTED OR
22 publicly elected office of a local government unit, as defined in § 10-101(d) of the
23 State Government Article.

24 (3) (i) "State official" means a State official as defined in § 15-102 of
25 the State Government Article.

1 (ii) "State official" includes the Governor, Governor-elect,
2 Lieutenant Governor, and Lieutenant Governor-elect.

3 (4) "Threat" includes:

4 (i) A verbal threat; or

5 (ii) A threat in any written form, whether or not the writing is
6 signed, or if it is signed whether or not the writing is signed with a fictitious name or
7 any other mark.

8 (b) A person may not knowingly and willfully make a threat to take the life of,
9 kidnap, or inflict bodily harm upon a State or local official.

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

13 (d) A person who violates any provision of this section is guilty of a
14 misdemeanor and upon conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or
15 a fine not exceeding \$2,500 or both.

16 **Article - State Government**

17 10-101.

18 (d) "Local government unit" means:

19 (1) a county;

20 (2) a municipal corporation;

21 (3) a special district that is established by State law and that operates
22 within a single county;

23 (4) a special district that is established by a county pursuant to public
24 general law; or

25 (5) an office, board, or department that is established in each county
26 under State law and that is funded, pursuant to State law, at least in part by the
27 county governing body.

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
29 October 1, 1999.