
By: **Senator Munson**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 1999

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Crimes - Threats Against State and Local Government Employees**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from knowingly and willfully making a
4 certain type of threat on an employee of the State or a local government unit;
5 defining a certain term; and generally relating to threats against State and local
6 government employees.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments
9 Section 561A
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (1996 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

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

14 **Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments**

15 561A.

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

17 (2) "LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT" MEANS:

18 (I) A COUNTY;

19 (II) A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION;

20 (III) A SPECIAL DISTRICT THAT IS ESTABLISHED BY A COUNTY; OR

21 (IV) AN OFFICE, BOARD, OR DEPARTMENT THAT IS ESTABLISHED IN
22 EACH COUNTY UNDER STATE LAW AND THAT IS FUNDED, PURSUANT TO STATE LAW,
23 AT LEAST IN PART BY THE COUNTY GOVERNING BODY.

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

4 [(3)] (4)(i) "State official" means a State official as defined in § 15-102 of
5 the State Government Article.

6 (ii) "State official" includes the Governor, Governor-elect,
7 Lieutenant Governor, and Lieutenant Governor-elect.

8 [(4)] (5) "Threat" includes:

9 (i) A verbal threat; or

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

13 (b) A person may not knowingly and willfully make a threat to take the life of,
14 kidnap, or inflict bodily harm upon:

15 (1) [a] A State or local official; OR

16 (2) AN EMPLOYEE OF THE STATE OR A LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT.

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

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

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