

SENATE BILL 184

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1999 Regular Session
9lr0273

By: **Senators Forehand, Kelley, Frosh, Teitelbaum, Conway, and Ruben**
Introduced and read first time: January 29, 1999
Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Gender and Sexual Orientation - Hate Crimes**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from harassing or committing a crime upon
4 a person or damaging the real or personal property of a person because of the
5 person's gender or sexual orientation; prohibiting a person from harassing or
6 committing a crime or damaging the real or personal property of an institution
7 because of the institution's contacts or association with a person or group of a
8 particular gender or sexual orientation or where there is evidence that exhibits
9 animosity against a person or group because of the person's or group's gender or
10 sexual orientation; prohibiting a person from defacing, damaging, or destroying
11 or attempting to deface, damage, or destroy or burning or attempting to burn
12 any object on the real or personal property of a person because of the person's
13 gender or sexual orientation; prohibiting a person from defacing, damaging, or
14 destroying or attempting to deface, damage, or destroy or burning or attempting
15 to burn any object on the real or personal property of an institution because of
16 the institution's contacts or association with a person or group of a particular
17 gender or sexual orientation or where there is evidence that exhibits animosity
18 against a person or group because of the person's or group's gender or sexual
19 orientation; and generally relating to prohibiting the commission of certain
20 offenses against certain persons or property because of gender or sexual
21 orientation.

22 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
23 Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments
24 Section 470A
25 Annotated Code of Maryland
26 (1996 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

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

Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments

1
2 470A.

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

4 (2) "Institution" means a publicly or privately owned, leased, or used
5 building, including:

6 (i) A school;

7 (ii) A library;

8 (iii) A recreation center;

9 (iv) A meeting hall; or

10 (v) A cemetery.

11 (3) "Religious real property" includes:

12 (i) A church, synagogue, or other place of worship;

13 (ii) A cemetery;

14 (iii) A religious school, educational facility, community center,
15 structure, or other real property used for any religious purpose; and

16 (iv) The grounds adjacent to the property described in items (i)
17 through (iii) of this paragraph.

18 (b) A person may not:

19 (1) Deface, damage, or destroy or attempt to deface, damage, or destroy
20 religious real or personal property that is owned, leased, or used by a religious entity;

21 (2) Obstruct, or attempt to obstruct by force or threat of force, a person in
22 the free exercise of that person's religious beliefs;

23 (3) Harass or commit a crime upon a person or damage the real or
24 personal property of:

25 (i) A person because of that person's race, color, religious beliefs,
26 GENDER, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, or national origin; or

27 (ii) An institution:

28 1. Because of the institution's contacts or association with a
29 person or group of a particular race, color, religious belief, GENDER, SEXUAL
30 ORIENTATION, or national origin; or

