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By: **Prince George's County Delegation**  
Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2000  
Assigned to: Judiciary

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Crimes - Threats Against Local Officials**  
3 **PG 405-00**

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

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 1999 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
13 Article - State Government  
14 Section 10-101(d)  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (1999 Replacement Volume)

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

19 **Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments**

20 561A.

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

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

25 (3) (i) "State official" means a State official as defined in § 15-102 of  
26 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, 2000.