
By: **Senators Baker and Hooper**
Introduced and read first time: January 15, 2001
Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Law - Threats Against Person - Prohibited**

3 FOR the purpose of expanding the prohibition on making threats to take the life of,
4 kidnap, or inflict bodily harm on certain State or local officials to include making
5 those threats against any person; providing penalties; and generally relating to
6 threats against another person.

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 2000 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 official" means an individual serving in a publicly elected
18 office of a local government unit, as defined in § 10-101(d) of the State Government
19 Article.

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

22 (ii) "State official" includes the Governor, Governor-elect,
23 Lieutenant Governor, and Lieutenant Governor-elect.

24 (4) "Threat"], "THREAT" includes:

25 [(i)] (1) A verbal threat; or

1 [(ii)] (2) A threat in any written form, whether or not the writing is
2 signed, or if it is signed whether or not the writing is signed with a fictitious name or
3 any other mark.

4 (b) A person may not knowingly and willfully make a threat to take the life of,
5 kidnap, or inflict bodily harm upon [a State or local official] ANY OTHER PERSON.

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

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

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
13 October 1, 2001.