

HOUSE BILL 666

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2002 Regular Session
2r1880
CF 2r1879

By: **Delegates Getty and Doory (Committee to Revise Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments)**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2002

Assigned to: Judiciary

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 26, 2002

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Law - Conversion of Leased or Rented Goods**

3 FOR the purpose of repealing a limitation on granting immunity against prosecution
4 for the conversion of a certain good or thing of value only to a bona fide resident
5 of the State who returns the good or thing of value within a certain period of
6 time; ~~altering a certain penalty~~; and generally relating to immunity from
7 prosecution for the conversion of a certain good or thing of value under certain
8 circumstances.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article - Criminal Law
11 Section 8-407
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (As enacted by Chapter ____ (H.B. 11) of the Acts of the General Assembly of
14 2002)

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

17 **Article - Criminal Law**

18 8-407.

19 (a) This section applies to a written lease notwithstanding that the lease
20 contains an option to purchase the good or thing of value if the lease:

21 (1) does not exceed a period of 6 months; and

1 (2) is not for nominal consideration.

2 (b) A person may not fraudulently convert to the person's own use a good or
3 thing of value received under a written contract or written lease entered into for the
4 purpose of renting or leasing things for valuable consideration.

5 (c) The failure to return the good or thing of value to the possession of, or
6 account for the good or thing of value with, the person who delivered the good or thing
7 of value at the time or in the manner described in the written contract or written
8 lease is prima facie evidence of intent to fraudulently convert the good or thing of
9 value.

10 (d) (1) A person may not be prosecuted under this section if [the person:

11 (i) is a bona fide resident of the State; and

12 (ii)] within 10 days after a written demand for the return of the good
13 or thing of value is mailed by certified United States mail, return receipt requested, to
14 the person who received the good or thing of value at the last address known to the
15 person who delivered the good or thing of value, THE PERSON returns the good or
16 thing of value to the possession of, or accounts for the good or thing of value with, the
17 person who delivered the good or thing of value.

18 (2) A prosecution [of a bona fide resident of the State] may not be
19 started until 10 days after a written demand described in paragraph (1) of this
20 subsection is mailed.

21 (e) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on
22 conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 60 days or a fine not exceeding
23 ~~[\$1,000]~~ \$500 or both.

24 (f) A person who violates this section shall restore the good or thing of value
25 converted to the person's own use or pay the full value to the owner or the person who
26 delivered the good or thing of value.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
28 October 1, 2002.