

HOUSE BILL 1080

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HB 1297/01 - JUD

2002 Regular Session
2lr2175

By: **Delegates Giannetti, Bates, Bobo, Flanagan, Murphy, Pendergrass, and Turner**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2002
Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Law - Housing Assistance - Fraud**

3 FOR the purpose of making it a misdemeanor to knowingly make a misstatement of a
4 material fact for the purpose of influencing a housing agency regarding certain
5 housing assistance; establishing a certain penalty; defining certain terms; and
6 generally relating to housing assistance and fraud.

7 BY adding to
8 Article - Criminal Law
9 Section 8-523
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (As enacted by Chapter _____ (H.B. 11) of the Acts of the General Assembly of
12 2002)

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

15 **Article - Criminal Law**

16 8-523.

17 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
18 INDICATED.

19 (2) "HOUSING AGENCY" MEANS AN AGENCY ESTABLISHED TO
20 ADMINISTER A HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM UNDER ARTICLE 44A OR ARTICLE
21 83B OF THE CODE.

22 (3) "HOUSING ASSISTANCE" MEANS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, AS
23 DEFINED IN ARTICLE 83B, § 1-101(E) OF THE CODE, OFFERED FOR THE PURPOSE OF
24 OBTAINING HOUSING BASED ON NEED UNDER A PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY A
25 HOUSING AGENCY AND FINANCED WHOLLY OR PARTIALLY BY FEDERAL, STATE, OR
26 LOCAL FUNDS.

1 (B) A PERSON MAY NOT KNOWINGLY MAKE A MISSTATEMENT OF A MATERIAL
2 FACT FOR THE PURPOSE OF INFLUENCING A HOUSING AGENCY REGARDING:

3 (1) AN APPLICATION FOR HOUSING ASSISTANCE; OR

4 (2) AN ACTION AFFECTING HOUSING ASSISTANCE ALREADY PROVIDED.

5 (C) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR
6 AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$5,000 OR
7 IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 3 YEARS OR BOTH.

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