

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

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 23, 2002

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

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

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

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

6 (B) A PERSON MAY NOT KNOWINGLY MAKE A ~~MISSTATEMENT~~ FALSE
7 STATEMENT OF A MATERIAL FACT FOR THE PURPOSE OF INFLUENCING A HOUSING
8 AGENCY REGARDING:

9 (1) AN APPLICATION FOR HOUSING ASSISTANCE; OR

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

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

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