HOUSE BILL 1150

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By: **Delegates McComas, Amedori, Boschert, Boteler, Boutin, Frank,**
   Glassman, Hennessy, Jennings, Kaiser, O'Donnell, Petzold, Shank,
   Sophocleus, and Sossi
Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2004
Assigned to: Judiciary

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Crimes - Obstructing or Hindering a Law Enforcement Officer**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from obstructing or hindering a law
4   enforcement officer in the performance of the law enforcement officer's duties,
5   whether intentionally or otherwise; establishing criminal penalties for
6   violations of this Act; and generally relating to the crimes of obstructing or
7   hindering a law enforcement officer.

8 BY adding to
9   Article - Criminal Law
10   Section 9-307
11   Annotated Code of Maryland
12   (2002 Volume and 2003 Supplement)

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 9-307.

17   (A)   IN THIS SECTION, "LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER" HAS THE MEANING
18 STATED IN § 3-101 OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE.

19   (B)   A PERSON MAY NOT, BY ACT OR OMISSION, OBSTRUCT OR HINDER
20 ANOTHER KNOWING OR HAVING REASON TO KNOW THAT THE OTHER IS
21 PERFORMING OFFICIAL DUTIES AS A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.

22   (C)   (1)   EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, A
23 PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF THE MISDEMEANOR OF
24 OBSTRUCTING OR HINDERING A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER IN THE SECOND
25 DEGREE AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 1
26 YEAR OR A FINE NOT EXCEEDING $3,000 OR BOTH.

1   (2) A PERSON WHO INTENTIONALLY VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY
2 OF THE FELONY OF OBSTRUCTION OR HINDERING A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER IN
3 THE FIRST DEGREE AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO IMPRISONMENT NOT
4 EXCEEDING 10 YEARS OR A FINE NOT EXCEEDING $10,000 OR BOTH.

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
6 October 1, 2004.