

BY: Judicial Proceedings Committee

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL NO. 15  
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 2, after “Crimes -” insert “False Reporting Activating”; in the same line, strike “False Report - Prohibited” and substitute “Immunity for Media”; in line 3, after the first “of” insert “exempting certain broadcast media organizations or their employees from civil liability in broadcasting certain information relating to an AMBER Alert;”; in line 5, strike “a term” and substitute “certain terms”; in line 6, strike “the crime of knowingly making a false report that causes”; after line 7, insert:

“BY adding to

Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings

Section 5-427

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2002 Replacement Volume and 2004 Supplement)”;

in line 8, strike “adding to” and substitute “repealing and reenacting, with amendments,”; and in line 10, strike “9-501.1” and substitute “9-501”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, after line 14, insert:

“Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings

5-427.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING TERMS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(Over)

(2) “EMPLOYEE OF A BROADCAST MEDIA ORGANIZATION” INCLUDES AN OFFICER, DIRECTOR, MANAGER, OR AGENT OF A RADIO OR TELEVISION ORGANIZATION.

(3) “AMBER ALERT” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 9-501 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE.

(B) A BROADCAST MEDIA ORGANIZATION OR ITS EMPLOYEES MAY NOT BE HELD CIVILLY LIABLE FOR ANY ACT OR OMISSION IN BROADCASTING INFORMATION RELATING TO THE ACTIVATION OF AN AMBER ALERT.”;

in line 16, strike “9-501.1.” and substitute “9-501.”; and in line 17, strike “(A)” and substitute “(a)”.

On page 2, strike in their entirety lines 1 through 7, inclusive, and substitute:

“(B) A person may not make, or cause to be made, a statement, report, or complaint that the person knows to be false as a whole or in material part, to a law enforcement officer of the State, of a county, municipal corporation, or other political subdivision of the State, or of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Police with intent to deceive and to cause:

(1) an investigation or other action to be taken as a result of the statement, report, or complaint; OR

(2) AN AMBER ALERT TO BE ACTIVATED AS A RESULT OF THE STATEMENT, REPORT, OR COMPLAINT.

[(b)] (C) (1) A person who violates SUBSECTION (B)(1) OF this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 6 months or a fine not exceeding \$500 or both.”;

in line 8, strike “(C)” and substitute “(2)”; and in the same line, after “VIOLATES” insert “SUBSECTION (B)(2) OF”.