
By: **Delegates Petzold, Anderson, Bronrott, Dumais, Dwyer, Kelly, King,
Madaleno, Mandel, McComas, McMillan, Menes, Quinter, Rosenberg,
Sophocleus, Vallario, and Zirkin**

Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2006

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Crimes - False Report Causing Issuance of AMBER Alert**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the crime of knowingly making a false report with
4 the intent to deceive a certain law enforcement official and cause the issuance of
5 an AMBER Alert; providing certain penalties; defining a certain term; and
6 generally relating to the issuance of an AMBER Alert.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article - Criminal Law
9 Section 9-501
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2002 Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

14 **Article - Criminal Law**

15 9-501.

16 (a) IN THIS SECTION, "AMBER ALERT" MEANS AN ALERT THAT A CHILD HAS
17 BEEN ABDUCTED AND IS IN DANGER, INCLUDING ALL KNOWN DETAILS
18 SURROUNDING THE CHILD'S ABDUCTION, ISSUED AS A RESULT OF THE VOLUNTARY
19 AMBER ALERT PROGRAM ENTERED INTO BY MARYLAND LAW ENFORCEMENT
20 AGENCIES AND RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCAST ORGANIZATIONS.

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

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

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

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

8 (2) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES SUBSECTION (B)(2) OF THIS SECTION IS
9 GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO IMPRISONMENT
10 NOT EXCEEDING 1 YEAR OR A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$2,000 OR BOTH.

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
12 October 1, 2006.