
By: **Delegates James and Cadden**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2006

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Crimes - Access to and Visual Displays at Burial, Memorial Service, Funeral,**
3 **or Funeral Procession**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from knowingly obstructing, hindering,
5 impeding, or blocking another person's entry to or exit from a burial, memorial
6 service, funeral, or funeral procession at certain times; prohibiting a person
7 from displaying visual images that convey fighting words within a certain
8 distance of a burial, memorial service, funeral, or funeral procession; providing
9 penalties for a violation of this Act; and generally relating to access to and visual
10 displays at burials, memorial services, funerals, or funeral processions.

11 BY adding to

12 Article - Criminal Law

13 Section 10-205

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2002 Volume and 2005 Supplement)

16 **Preamble**

17 WHEREAS, The General Assembly recognizes that the exercise of a person's
18 right to voice their objections to the involvement of the United States in war must be
19 balanced against another person's right to personal safety during a funeral, burial,
20 memorial service, or funeral procession of a person who has served in a war; and

21 WHEREAS, Disrupting a funeral, burial, memorial service, or funeral
22 procession in a manner that endangers the health, safety, and welfare of a person is a
23 matter of statewide concern; now, therefore,

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

1

Article - Criminal Law

2 10-205.

3 (A) A PERSON MAY NOT, FOR 60 MINUTES IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING A
4 FUNERAL, BURIAL, MEMORIAL SERVICE, OR FUNERAL PROCESSION THAT HAS A
5 SCHEDULED STARTING TIME, OR DURING THE 60 MINUTES IMMEDIATELY
6 FOLLOWING A FUNERAL OR MEMORIAL SERVICE:

7 (1) KNOWINGLY OBSTRUCT, HINDER, IMPEDE, OR BLOCK ANOTHER
8 PERSON'S ENTRY TO OR EXIT FROM THE FUNERAL, BURIAL, MEMORIAL SERVICE, OR
9 FUNERAL PROCESSION; OR

10 (2) DISPLAY A VISUAL IMAGE THAT CONVEYS FIGHTING WORDS
11 AGAINST ANOTHER PERSON WITHIN 500 FEET OF:

12 (I) AN ENTRANCE TO A FUNERAL, BURIAL, OR MEMORIAL SERVICE;
13 OR

14 (II) A FUNERAL PROCESSION.

15 (B) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR
16 AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 90 DAYS OR A
17 FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$1,000 OR BOTH.

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