
By: **Senators Hooper, Colburn, Haines, Harris, Jacobs, and Mooney**

Introduced and read first time: February 15, 2006

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Crimes - Self-Defense - No Duty to Retreat or Seek Safety by Escape**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing a person charged with a certain crime to assert a
4 claim of self-defense even though the person failed to retreat or seek safety by
5 escape; and generally relating to the defense of self-defense.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article - Criminal Law
8 Section 3-209
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2002 Volume and 2005 Supplement)

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

13 **Article - Criminal Law**

14 3-209.

15 A person charged with a crime under § 3-202, § 3-203, § 3-204, or § 3-205 of
16 this subtitle may assert any judicially recognized defense, INCLUDING A CLAIM OF
17 SELF-DEFENSE EVEN THOUGH THE PERSON FAILED TO RETREAT OR SEEK SAFETY
18 BY ESCAPE.

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