

HOUSE BILL 550

E1

8lr1570
CF SB 250

By: **Delegate Rosenberg (By Request - Committee to Revise Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments)**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2008

Assigned to: Judiciary

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 4, 2008

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Law - Forgery of Signature and Counterfeit Documents -**
3 **Prohibition**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from writing, signing, or possessing certain
5 counterfeited documents; prohibiting a person from forging, falsifying, or
6 counterfeiting the signature of certain persons; establishing certain penalties;
7 providing that a certain crime is not covered by the 1-year statute of limitations
8 for a misdemeanor; making stylistic changes; and generally relating to
9 prohibitions on forgery of signatures and counterfeit documents.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article - Criminal Law
12 Section 8-605
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2002 Volume and 2007 Supplement)

15 BY adding to
16 Article - Criminal Law
17 Section 8-606.1
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2002 Volume and 2007 Supplement)

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 Article – Criminal Law

2 8–605.

3 (a) (1) A person[, with intent to defraud another,] may not counterfeit,
4 [or] cause to be counterfeited, or willingly aid or assist in counterfeiting:

5 (i) a commission, patent, [or] pardon, **ORDER FOR RELEASE,**
6 **OR OTHER COURT DOCUMENT;** or

7 (ii) a warrant, certificate, or other public security from which
8 money may be drawn from the treasury of the State.

9 [(2) A person, with intent to defraud another, may not print, write,
10 sign, or pass a counterfeit warrant, certificate, or public security if the person knows
11 that it was counterfeited.]

12 **(2) A PERSON MAY NOT WRITE, SIGN, OR POSSESS A**
13 **COUNTERFEIT:**

14 **(I) COMMISSION, PATENT, PARDON, ORDER FOR RELEASE,**
15 **OR OTHER COURT DOCUMENT; OR**

16 **(II) WARRANT, CERTIFICATE, OR OTHER PUBLIC SECURITY**
17 **FROM WHICH MONEY MAY BE DRAWN FROM THE TREASURY OF THE STATE.**

18 (b) A person who violates this section is guilty of a felony and on conviction is
19 subject to imprisonment for not less than 2 years and not exceeding 10 years.

20 **8–606.1.**

21 **(A) A PERSON MAY NOT:**

22 **(1) FORGE, FALSIFY, OR COUNTERFEIT THE SIGNATURE OF A**
23 **JUDGE, COURT OFFICER, OR COURT EMPLOYEE OF THE STATE; OR**

24 **(2) USE A DOCUMENT WITH A FORGED, FALSE, OR COUNTERFEIT**
25 **SIGNATURE OF A JUDGE, COURT OFFICER, OR OTHER COURT EMPLOYEE OF THE**
26 **STATE KNOWING THE SIGNATURE TO BE FORGED, FALSE, OR COUNTERFEIT.**

27 **(B) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A**
28 **MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO IMPRISONMENT NOT**
29 **EXCEEDING 5 YEARS OR A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$10,000 OR BOTH.**

1 (C) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS SUBJECT TO § 5-106(B)
2 OF THE COURTS ARTICLE.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
4 October 1, 2008.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.