

CHAPTER 30

(House Bill 550)

AN ACT concerning

Criminal Law – Forgery of Signature and Counterfeit Documents – Prohibition

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

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Criminal Law

Section 8–605

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2002 Volume and 2007 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Criminal Law

Section 8–606.1

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2002 Volume and 2007 Supplement)

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

Article – Criminal Law

8–605.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8-606.1.

(A) A PERSON MAY NOT:

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

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

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

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

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

Approved by the Governor, April 8, 2008.