

HOUSE BILL 690

D5
HB 618/08 – ENV

9lr0740
CF 9lr0741

By: **Delegates Rosenberg, Cardin, Feldman, George, Hucker, Kipke, Lafferty,
McConkey, Oaks, and Stein**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2009

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Human Relations – Discrimination in Housing – Reasonable Accommodations**
3 **for Religious Practices**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting certain persons from refusing to make certain
5 reasonable accommodations for religious practices when the accommodations
6 may be necessary to afford an individual certain use and enjoyment of a covered
7 multifamily dwelling; providing that certain persons are not required to make
8 certain accommodations for religious practices if the accommodations would
9 pose a certain undue hardship; altering the application of a certain definition;
10 making technical corrections; and generally relating to discrimination in
11 housing.

12 BY repealing

13 Article – State Government

14 Section 20–706(a)

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (As enacted by Chapter ____ (H.B. 51) of the Acts of the General Assembly of
17 2009)

18 BY renumbering

19 Article – State Government

20 Section 20–701(b) through (i), 20–706(b) and (c), and 20–707 through 20–710,
21 respectively

22 to be Section 20–701(c) through (j), 20–706(a) and (b), and 20–708 through
23 20–711, respectively

24 Annotated Code of Maryland

25 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

26 (As enacted by Chapter ____ (H.B. 51) of the Acts of the General Assembly of
27 2009)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 BY adding to
2 Article – State Government
3 Section 20–701(b) and 20–707
4 Annotated Code of Maryland
5 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)
6 (As enacted by Chapter ____ (H.B. 51) of the Acts of the General Assembly of
7 2009)

8 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
9 MARYLAND, That Section(s) 20–706(a) of Article – State Government of the
10 Annotated Code of Maryland (as enacted by Chapter ____ (H.B. 51) of the Acts of the
11 General Assembly of 2009) be repealed.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section(s) 20–701(b)
13 through (i), 20–706(b) and (c), and 20–707 through 20–710, respectively, of Article
14 – State Government of the Annotated Code of Maryland (as enacted by Chapter ____
15 (H.B. 51) of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2009) be renumbered to be Section(s)
16 20–701(c) through (j), 20–706(a) and (b), and 20–708 through 20–711, respectively.

17 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland
18 read as follows:

19 **Article – State Government**

20 20–701.

21 **(B) (1) “COVERED MULTIFAMILY DWELLING” MEANS:**

22 **(I) A BUILDING CONSISTING OF FOUR OR MORE UNITS, IF**
23 **THE BUILDING HAS ONE OR MORE ELEVATORS; OR**

24 **(II) A GROUND FLOOR UNIT IN A BUILDING CONSISTING OF**
25 **FOUR OR MORE UNITS, IF THE BUILDING HAS NO ELEVATOR.**

26 **(2) “COVERED MULTIFAMILY DWELLING” INCLUDES AN**
27 **APARTMENT BUILDING OR CONDOMINIUM.**

28 **20–707.**

29 **(A) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN §§ 20–703 AND 20–704 OF THIS SUBTITLE,**
30 **A PERSON MAY NOT REFUSE TO MAKE REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR**
31 **RELIGIOUS PRACTICES IN RULES, POLICIES, PRACTICES, OR SERVICES WHEN**
32 **THE ACCOMMODATIONS MAY BE NECESSARY TO AFFORD AN INDIVIDUAL EQUAL**
33 **OPPORTUNITY TO USE AND ENJOY A COVERED MULTIFAMILY DWELLING.**

1 **(B) THIS SECTION DOES NOT REQUIRE A PERSON TO MAKE**
2 **ACCOMMODATIONS THAT WOULD POSE AN UNDUE HARDSHIP ON THE**
3 **OPERATION OF A COVERED MULTIFAMILY DWELLING.**

4 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
5 October 1, 2009.