

# Chapter 342

(House Bill 510)

AN ACT concerning

## **Criminal Law – ~~Peace Orders, Stalking, and~~ Harassment – Penalties**

FOR the purpose of ~~altering the penalty for the second or subsequent offense of failure to comply with the relief granted in an interim, a temporary, or a final peace order; altering the definition of stalking to include communicating with another in a certain manner and knowingly cause another mental distress under certain circumstances;~~ altering the penalty for harassment for a second or subsequent offense; and generally relating to ~~peace orders and the offenses of stalking and~~ harassment.

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings  
Section 3–1508  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2006 Replacement Volume and 2010 Supplement)~~

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Criminal Law  
Section ~~3–802~~ and 3–803  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2002 Volume and 2010 Supplement)

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

### **~~Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings~~**

~~3–1508.~~

~~(a) An individual who fails to comply with the relief granted in an interim peace order under § 3–1503.1 of this subtitle, a temporary peace order under § 3–1504(a)(2) of this subtitle, or a final peace order under § 3–1505(d)(1)(i), (ii), (iii), or (iv) of this subtitle is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject, for each offense, to:~~

~~(1) FOR A FIRST OFFENSE, a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or imprisonment not exceeding 90 days or both; AND~~

~~(2) FOR A SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE, A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$2,500 OR IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 1 YEAR OR BOTH.~~

~~(b) A law enforcement officer shall arrest with or without a warrant and take into custody an individual who the officer has probable cause to believe is in violation of an interim peace order, temporary peace order, or final peace order in effect at the time of the violation.~~

## Article – Criminal Law

~~§ 802.~~

~~(a) In this section, “stalking” means a malicious course of conduct that includes approaching [or], pursuing, OR COMMUNICATING WITH another [where] IN A MANNER THAT INDICATES the person intends to [place], or knows or reasonably should [have known the conduct would] KNOW WILL, CAUSE ANOTHER MENTAL DISTRESS OR place another in reasonable fear:~~

~~(1) (i) of serious bodily injury;~~

~~(ii) of an assault in any degree;~~

~~(iii) of rape or sexual offense as defined by §§ 3-303 through 3-308 of this article or attempted rape or sexual offense in any degree;~~

~~(iv) of false imprisonment; or~~

~~(v) of death; or~~

~~(2) that a third person likely will suffer any of the acts listed in item (1) of this subsection.~~

~~(b) The provisions of this section do not apply to conduct that is:~~

~~(1) performed to ensure compliance with a court order;~~

~~(2) performed to carry out a specific lawful commercial purpose; or~~

~~(3) authorized, required, or protected by local, State, or federal law.~~

~~(c) A person may not engage in stalking.~~

~~(d) 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 \$5,000 or both.~~

~~(e) A sentence imposed under this section may be separate from and consecutive to or concurrent with a sentence for any other crime based on the acts establishing a violation of this section.~~

3-803.

(a) A person may not follow another in or about a public place or maliciously engage in a course of conduct that alarms or seriously annoys the other:

- (1) with the intent to harass, alarm, or annoy the other;
- (2) after receiving a reasonable warning or request to stop by or on behalf of the other; and
- (3) without a legal purpose.

(b) This section does not apply to a peaceable activity intended to express a political view or provide information to others.

(c) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to:

**(1) FOR A FIRST OFFENSE, imprisonment not exceeding 90 days or a fine not exceeding \$500 or both; AND**

**(2) FOR A SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE, IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 180 DAYS OR A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$1,000 OR BOTH.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2011.

**Approved by the Governor, May 10, 2011.**