

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 871 (Senator Jacobs)  
Judicial Proceedings

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**Criminal Procedure - Venue for Prosecution of False Statements Concerning  
Destructive Devices or Toxic Materials**

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This bill authorizes a person to be prosecuted for making a false statement concerning a destructive device or toxic material using a telephone or other electronic means in the county in which the destructive device or toxic material was alleged to be located.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill is procedural/technical and does not materially affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** The bill is procedural/technical and does not materially affect State finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** A person is prohibited from circulating or transmitting to another, with intent that it be acted on, a statement or rumor that the person knows to be false about the location or possible detonation of a destructive device or the location or possible release of toxic material. A violator is guilty of a felony, punishable by imprisonment for up to 10 years and/or a \$10,000 maximum fine. Violators may also be required to pay restitution. If the offense was committed by a minor, the minor's driving privileges may be suspended.

The prohibition does not apply to a statement made or rumor circulated by an officer, employee, or agent of a bona fide civilian defense organization or unit, if made in the regular course of the person's duties.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), State's Attorneys' Association, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 10, 2013  
ncs/kdm

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