

# HOUSE BILL 270

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5lr1256  
CF 5lr1295

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By: **Delegates B. Wilson, Aumann, Buckel, Dumais, Folden, Hornberger, Kaiser, Kipke, Kittleman, Long, McComas, Metzgar, Morales, Szeliga, West, and C. Wilson**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2015

Assigned to: Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Law – Arson, Burning, and Malicious Destruction – Property of**  
3 **Another – Definition**

4 FOR the purpose of defining the term “property of another” as used in certain provisions  
5 prohibiting arson, burning, and the malicious destruction of property to conform with  
6 the definition found in provisions relating to theft and related crimes; and generally  
7 relating to arson, burning, and the malicious destruction of property.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
9 Article – Criminal Law  
10 Section 6–101(a) and 7–101(a) and (j)  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
14 Article – Criminal Law  
15 Section 6–101(d) and (e) and 6–301  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

18 BY adding to  
19 Article – Criminal Law  
20 Section 6–101(d)  
21 Annotated Code of Maryland  
22 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

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

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **Article – Criminal Law**

2 6–101.

3 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

4 **(D) “PROPERTY OF ANOTHER” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 7–101 OF**  
5 **THIS ARTICLE.**6 **[(d)] (E)** (1) “Structure” means a building or other construction, a vehicle, or  
7 watercraft.

8 (2) “Structure” includes a:

9 (i) barn, stable, pier, wharf, and any facility attached to a pier or  
10 wharf;

11 (ii) tent, public building, or public bridge; and

12 (iii) railroad car.

13 **[(e)] (F)** “Willfully” means acting intentionally, knowingly, and purposely.

14 6–301.

15 **(A) IN THIS SECTION, “PROPERTY OF ANOTHER” HAS THE MEANING STATED**  
16 **IN § 7–101 OF THIS ARTICLE.**17 **[(a)] (B)** A person may not willfully and maliciously destroy, injure, or deface the  
18 real or personal property of another.19 **[(b)] (C)** A person who, in violation of this section, causes damage of at least  
20 \$1,000 to the property is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to  
21 imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or a fine not exceeding \$2,500 or both.22 **[(c)] (D)** A person who, in violation of this section, causes damage of less than  
23 \$1,000 to the property is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to  
24 imprisonment not exceeding 60 days or a fine not exceeding \$500 or both.25 **[(d)] (E)** (1) For purposes of this subsection, an act of “graffiti” means a  
26 permanent drawing, permanent painting, or a permanent mark or inscription on the  
27 property of another without the permission of the owner of the property.28 (2) In addition to the penalties set forth in **[subsections (b) and (c)]**  
29 **SUBSECTIONS (C) AND (D)** of this section, the court shall order a person convicted of

1 causing malicious destruction by an act of graffiti to pay restitution or perform community  
2 service or both.

3 (3) Title 11, Subtitle 6 of the Criminal Procedure Article applies to an order  
4 of restitution under this subsection.

5 ~~[(e)]~~ (F) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, to  
6 determine a penalty, the court may consider as one crime the aggregate value of damage to  
7 each property resulting from one scheme or continuing course of conduct.

8 (2) If separate acts resulting in damage to the properties of one or more  
9 owners are set forth by separate counts in one or more charging documents, the separate  
10 counts may not be merged for sentencing.

11 ~~[(f)]~~ (G) (1) The value of damage is not a substantive element of a crime  
12 under this section and need not be stated in the charging document.

13 (2) The value of damage shall be based on the evidence and that value shall  
14 be applied for the purpose of imposing the penalties established in this section.

15 (3) If it cannot be determined from the evidence whether the value of the  
16 damage to the property is more or less than \$1,000, the value is deemed to be less than  
17 \$1,000.

18 7-101.

19 (a) In this part the following words have the meanings indicated.

20 (j) "Property of another" means property in which a person other than the  
21 offender has an interest that the offender does not have the authority to defeat or impair,  
22 even though the offender also may have an interest in the property, **INCLUDING, BUT NOT**  
23 **LIMITED TO, AN INTEREST BY TENANTS BY THE ENTIRETY.**

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
25 October 1, 2015.