

SENATE BILL 178

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6lr0544
CF HB 493

By: **Senators Lee, Benson, King, Manno, Nathan–Pulliam, Ramirez, and Raskin**

Introduced and read first time: January 18, 2016

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 1, 2016

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Law – Extortion – Immigration Status**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from committing a certain act of extortion by
4 wrongful use of actual or threatened notification of law enforcement officials about
5 another person’s undocumented or illegal immigration status; and generally relating
6 to extortion.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Criminal Law
9 Section 3–701
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Criminal Law**

15 3–701.

16 (a) This section does not apply to legitimate efforts by employees or their
17 representatives to obtain certain wages, hours, or working conditions.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (b) A person may not obtain, attempt to obtain, or conspire to obtain money,
2 property, labor, services, or anything of value from another person with the person's
3 consent, if the consent is induced by wrongful use of actual or threatened:

4 (1) force or violence;

5 (2) economic injury; [or]

6 (3) destruction, concealment, removal, confiscation, or possession of any
7 immigration or government identification document with intent to harm the immigration
8 status of another person; OR

9 **(4) NOTIFICATION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS ABOUT**
10 **ANOTHER PERSON'S UNDOCUMENTED OR ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION STATUS.**

11 (c) (1) If the value of the property, labor, or services is at least \$1,000 but less
12 than \$10,000, a person who violates this section is guilty of the felony of extortion and on
13 conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 10 years or a fine not exceeding \$10,000
14 or both.

15 (2) If the value of the property, labor, or services is at least \$10,000 but less
16 than \$100,000, a person who violates this section is guilty of the felony of extortion and on
17 conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 15 years or a fine not exceeding \$15,000
18 or both.

19 (3) If the value of the property, labor, or services is \$100,000 or more, a
20 person who violates this section is guilty of the felony of extortion and on conviction is
21 subject to imprisonment not exceeding 25 years or a fine not exceeding \$25,000 or both.

22 (d) If the value of the property, labor, or services is less than \$1,000, a person who
23 violates this section is guilty of the misdemeanor of extortion and on conviction is subject
24 to imprisonment not exceeding 18 months or a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or both.

25 (e) A prosecution for a felony under this section shall be instituted within 5 years
26 after the crime was committed.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
28 October 1, 2016.