

# HOUSE BILL 700

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By: **Delegates Sydnor, Barron, Stein, Beidle, Brooks, Carey, Chang, Conaway, Davis, Haynes, Hettleman, Kipke, Knotts, R. Lewis, Morales, Patterson, Pena–Melnyk, Proctor, Rosenberg, Walker, A. Washington, M. Washington, Wilkins, and P. Young**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2018

Assigned to: Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Law – Hate Crimes – Group Victim**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from committing certain acts against a group  
4 because of the group’s race, color, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, gender,  
5 disability, or national origin, or because the group is homeless; and generally relating  
6 to hate crimes.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Article – Criminal Law  
9 Section 10–304  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2017 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 10–304.

16 Because of [another’s] **ANOTHER PERSON’S OR GROUP’S** race, color, religious  
17 beliefs, sexual orientation, gender, disability, or national origin, or because another  
18 **PERSON OR GROUP** is homeless, a person may not:

19 (1) (i) commit a crime or attempt to commit a crime against that person  
20 **OR GROUP;**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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1 (ii) damage the real or personal property of that person **OR GROUP**;

2 (iii) deface, damage, or destroy, or attempt to deface, damage, or  
3 destroy the real or personal property of that person **OR GROUP**; or

4 (iv) burn or attempt to burn an object on the real or personal property  
5 of that person **OR GROUP**; or

6 (2) commit a violation of item (1) of this section that:

7 (i) except as provided in item (ii) of this item, involves a separate  
8 crime that is a felony; or

9 (ii) results in the death of [the] A victim.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
11 October 1, 2018.