

Chapter 498

**(House Bill 700)**

AN ACT concerning

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

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

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Criminal Law  
Section 10–304  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

**Article – Criminal Law**

10–304.

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

- (1) (i) commit a crime or attempt to commit a crime against that person **OR GROUP**;
- (ii) damage the real or personal property of that person **OR GROUP**;
- (iii) deface, damage, or destroy, or attempt to deface, damage, or destroy the real or personal property of that person **OR GROUP**; or
- (iv) burn or attempt to burn an object on the real or personal property of that person **OR GROUP**; or
- (2) commit a violation of item (1) of this section that:
  - (i) except as provided in item (ii) of this item, involves a separate crime that is a felony; or

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

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

**Approved by the Governor, May 8, 2018.**