

Chapter 32

(House Bill 168)

AN ACT concerning

Public Safety – Reporting of Hate Crimes

FOR the purpose of altering certain requirements for the reporting, collection, and analysis of information relating to hate crimes to require the Department of State Police to collect and analyze information about incidents apparently directed against an individual or a group because of color, religious beliefs, gender, disability, national origin, or homelessness; altering certain information required to be provided by each local law enforcement agency and the State Fire Marshal to the Department; altering certain information for which the Department is required to adopt procedures for collection and analysis; altering certain information about which the Department is required to make certain reports to the Commission on Civil Rights; and generally relating to the reporting of hate crimes.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Criminal Law
Section 10–304
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Public Safety
Section 2–307
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume)

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 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 a victim.

Article – Public Safety

2–307.

(a) The Department shall collect, analyze, and disseminate information about the incidence of crime in the State.

(b) (1) The Department shall collect and analyze information about incidents apparently directed against an individual or group because of race, [religion, ethnicity, or] **COLOR, RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, sexual orientation, GENDER, DISABILITY, NATIONAL ORIGIN, OR HOMELESSNESS.**

(2) Each local law enforcement agency and the State Fire Marshal shall provide the Department with the information described in paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(3) The Department shall adopt procedures for the collection and analysis of the information described in paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(4) The Department shall make monthly reports to the Commission on Civil Rights about the information described in paragraph (1) of this subsection.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2019.

Approved by the Governor, April 18, 2019.