

# HOUSE BILL 1243

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CF 0lr0745

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By: **Delegate Cox**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2020

Assigned to: Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Law – Hate Crimes**  
3 **(John Weed Dignity Act)**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting certain criminal conduct by a person against another person  
5 or group because of the other person’s or group’s age or speech, or because of the  
6 other person’s or group’s refusal to donate or otherwise provide money or a thing of  
7 value on demand; and generally relating to hate crimes.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article – Criminal Law  
10 Section 10–304  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Criminal Law**

16 10–304.

17 Because of another person’s or group’s race, color, religious beliefs, sexual  
18 orientation, gender, disability, [or] national origin, **AGE, OR SPEECH**, or because another  
19 person or group is homeless **OR REFUSES TO DONATE MONEY OR A THING OF VALUE ON**  
20 **DEMAND**, a person may not:

21 (1) (i) commit a crime or attempt or threaten to commit a crime against  
22 that person or group;

23 (ii) deface, damage, or destroy, or attempt or threaten to deface,

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 damage, or destroy the real or personal property of that person or group; [or]

2 (iii) burn or attempt or threaten to burn an object on the real or  
3 personal property of that person or group; **OR**

4 (IV) **INTENTIONALLY THROW, SPIT, PLACE, SMEAR, OR EJECT**  
5 **BODILY FLUIDS OR EXCREMENT ON THAT PERSON OR GROUP OR ATTEMPT TO**  
6 **THROW, SPIT, PLACE, SMEAR, OR EJECT BODILY FLUIDS OR EXCREMENT ON THAT**  
7 **PERSON OR GROUP; or**

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

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

11 (ii) results in the death of a victim.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
13 October 1, 2020.