

HOUSE BILL 227

D3
HB 1115/20 – JUD

(PRE-FILED)

11r0631
CF 11r1715

By: **Delegate Charles**
Requested: September 16, 2020
Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2021
Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Courts – Improperly Summoning a Police Officer – Civil Liability**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing a person to bring a civil action for damages against another
4 person who knowingly causes a police officer to arrive at a location to contact the
5 person with a certain intent; specifying the types of damages that may be recovered
6 under this Act; providing that this Act does not limit certain legal remedies; and
7 generally relating to civil liability for improperly summoning a police officer.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

10 Section 3–2201 through 3–2203 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 22. Liability
11 for Improperly Summoning a Police Officer”

12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2020 Replacement Volume)

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

16 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

17 **SUBTITLE 22. LIABILITY FOR IMPROPERLY SUMMONING A POLICE OFFICER.**

18 **3–2201.**

19 **A PERSON MAY BRING A CIVIL ACTION FOR DAMAGES AGAINST ANOTHER**
20 **PERSON WHO KNOWINGLY CAUSES A POLICE OFFICER TO ARRIVE AT A LOCATION TO**
21 **CONTACT THE PERSON WITH THE INTENT TO:**

22 **(1) INFRINGE ON THE PERSON’S RIGHTS UNDER THE MARYLAND**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 CONSTITUTION OR THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION;

2 (2) UNLAWFULLY DISCRIMINATE AGAINST THE PERSON;

3 (3) CAUSE THE PERSON TO:

4 (I) FEEL HARASSED, HUMILIATED, OR EMBARRASSED; OR

5 (II) BE EXPELLED FROM A PLACE IN WHICH THE PERSON IS
6 LAWFULLY LOCATED; OR

7 (4) DAMAGE THE PERSON'S:

8 (I) REPUTATION OR STANDING WITHIN THE COMMUNITY; OR

9 (II) FINANCIAL, ECONOMIC, CONSUMER, OR BUSINESS
10 PROSPECTS OR INTERESTS.

11 **3-2202.**

12 A PERSON ENTITLED TO BRING A CIVIL ACTION UNDER THIS SUBTITLE MAY
13 RECOVER:

14 (1) THE GREATER OF:

15 (I) ECONOMIC AND NONECONOMIC DAMAGES, INCLUDING
16 DAMAGES FOR EMOTIONAL DISTRESS; OR

17 (II) STATUTORY DAMAGES OF \$10,000 AGAINST EACH
18 DEFENDANT FOUND LIABLE UNDER THIS SECTION; AND

19 (2) PUNITIVE DAMAGES.

20 **3-2203.**

21 THIS SUBTITLE DOES NOT LIMIT ANY OTHER LEGAL REMEDY TO WHICH A
22 PLAINTIFF IS ENTITLED.

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
24 October 1, 2021.