

HOUSE BILL 231

E1, E2
HB 488/20 – JUD

(PRE-FILED)

11r0323
CF SB 46

By: **Delegate Palakovich Carr**

Requested: August 4, 2020

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2021

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Crimes – Mitigation – Race, Color, National Origin, Sex, Gender Identity, or**
3 **Sexual Orientation**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing that a certain discovery or perception of, or belief about,
5 another person's race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity, or sexual
6 orientation does not constitute certain provocation to mitigate a killing from the
7 crime of murder to manslaughter; establishing that a certain discovery or perception
8 of, or belief about, another person's race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity,
9 or sexual orientation does not constitute certain provocation to mitigate an assault
10 from the crime of assault in the first degree to assault in the second degree or another
11 lesser crime; and generally relating to homicide and assault.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – Criminal Law
14 Section 2–207 and 3–209
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Criminal Law**

20 2–207.

21 (a) A person who commits manslaughter is guilty of a felony and on conviction is
22 subject to:

23 (1) imprisonment not exceeding 10 years; or

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2) imprisonment in a local correctional facility not exceeding 2 years or a
2 fine not exceeding \$500 or both.

3 (b) The discovery of one's spouse engaged in sexual intercourse with another does
4 not constitute legally adequate provocation for the purpose of mitigating a killing from the
5 crime of murder to voluntary manslaughter even though the killing was provoked by that
6 discovery.

7 **(C) THE DISCOVERY OR PERCEPTION OF, OR BELIEF ABOUT, ANOTHER**
8 **PERSON'S RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEX, GENDER IDENTITY, OR SEXUAL**
9 **ORIENTATION, WHETHER OR NOT ACCURATE, DOES NOT CONSTITUTE LEGALLY**
10 **ADEQUATE PROVOCATION TO MITIGATE A KILLING FROM THE CRIME OF MURDER TO**
11 **MANSLAUGHTER.**

12 3-209.

13 **(A) [A] SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A** person charged with
14 a crime under § 3-202, § 3-203, § 3-204, or § 3-205 of this subtitle may assert any judicially
15 recognized defense.

16 **(B) THE DISCOVERY OR PERCEPTION OF, OR BELIEF ABOUT, ANOTHER**
17 **PERSON'S RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEX, GENDER IDENTITY, OR SEXUAL**
18 **ORIENTATION, WHETHER OR NOT ACCURATE, DOES NOT CONSTITUTE LEGALLY**
19 **ADEQUATE PROVOCATION TO MITIGATE AN ASSAULT FROM THE CRIME OF ASSAULT**
20 **IN THE FIRST DEGREE TO ASSAULT IN THE SECOND DEGREE OR ANOTHER LESSER**
21 **CRIME.**

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