

SENATE BILL 713

G1, E1

1lr1693

By: **Senators Hough, Bailey, Carozza, Corderman, Eckardt, Edwards, Guzzone, Kelley, Ready, Salling, and Simonaire**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2021

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Theft or Destruction of Campaign Signs – Penalties**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing penalties for the theft or malicious destruction of campaign
4 signs; applying certain penalties to the theft or malicious destruction of campaign
5 signs; and generally relating to the theft or malicious destruction of campaign signs.

6 BY adding to

7 Article – Election Law

8 Section 16–904

9 Annotated Code of Maryland

10 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

12 Article – Election Law

13 Section 16–1001(b) and (c)

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

17 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article – Election Law**

19 **16–904.**

20 **(A) (1) A PERSON MAY NOT WILLFULLY AND MALICIOUSLY DESTROY,**
21 **INJURE, OR DEFACE A CAMPAIGN SIGN THAT IS ON ANOTHER PERSON’S PROPERTY.**

22 **(2) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SUBSECTION IS GUILTY OF A**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE OF NOT MORE THAN
2 **\$1,000** OR IMPRISONMENT FOR NOT MORE THAN **60** DAYS OR BOTH.

3 (B) (1) A PERSON MAY NOT WILLFULLY OR KNOWINGLY OBTAIN OR
4 EXERT UNAUTHORIZED CONTROL OVER A CAMPAIGN SIGN, IF THE PERSON:

5 (I) INTENDS TO DEPRIVE THE OWNER OF OWNERSHIP OF OR
6 CONTROL OVER THE CAMPAIGN SIGN;

7 (II) WILLFULLY OR KNOWINGLY USES, CONCEALS, OR
8 ABANDONS THE CAMPAIGN SIGN IN A MANNER THAT DEPRIVES THE OWNER OF
9 OWNERSHIP OF OR CONTROL OVER THE CAMPAIGN SIGN; OR

10 (III) USES, CONCEALS, OR ABANDONS THE CAMPAIGN SIGN
11 KNOWING THE USE, CONCEALMENT, OR ABANDONMENT WILL MOST LIKELY DEPRIVE
12 THE OWNER OF OWNERSHIP OF OR CONTROL OVER THE CAMPAIGN SIGN.

13 (2) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SUBSECTION IS GUILTY OF A
14 MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE OF NOT MORE THAN
15 **\$1,000** OR IMPRISONMENT FOR NOT MORE THAN **90** DAYS OR BOTH.

16 16-1001.

17 (b) A person who is convicted of any criminal violation of this article shall be
18 disqualified permanently from serving as an election judge, board member, or employee of
19 a board.

20 (c) A candidate who is convicted of any practice prohibited by this article shall be
21 ineligible to be elected or appointed to any public office or employment for a period of 5
22 years following the date of the conviction.

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