HOUSE BILL 84

By: Delegates Ruth, Amprey, Belcastro, Ebersole, Hill, Ivey, R. Lewis, Moon, Palakovitch Carr, Stewart, Terrasa, and Washington

Requested: October 13, 2021
Introduced and read first time: January 12, 2022
Assigned to: Ways and Means

Committee Report: Favorable
House action: Adopted
Read second time: February 22, 2022

CHAPTER _____

AN ACT concerning

Education – Crimes on School Grounds – Application

FOR the purpose of specifying that provisions of law prohibiting and penalizing disruptive and threatening behavior on the grounds of, in the classes of, or in the home of an employee of an institution of elementary, secondary, or higher education do not apply to students who commit offenses at the institution they attend, students on exclusionary discipline who commit offenses at the institution they attend, or students who commit offenses at another institution while participating in or attending a sporting event or other extracurricular program sponsored at that institution; and generally relating to the application of provisions of law that prohibit and penalize disruptive and threatening behavior in elementary, secondary, and higher education institutions.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Education
Section 26–101
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

Article – Education

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
Underlining indicates amendments to bill.
Strikeout indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.
THE PROHIBITIONS AND PENALTIES IN THIS SECTION DO NOT APPLY TO
A PERSON WHO IS:

(1) A STUDENT CURRENTLY ATTENDING THE INSTITUTION OF
ELEMENTARY, SECONDARY, OR HIGHER EDUCATION WHERE THE OFFENSE OCCURS;

(2) A STUDENT CURRENTLY ON EXCLUSIONARY DISCIPLINE FROM
THE INSTITUTION OF ELEMENTARY, SECONDARY, OR HIGHER EDUCATION WHERE
THE OFFENSE OCCURS; OR

(3) A STUDENT CURRENTLY ATTENDING ANOTHER INSTITUTION OF
ELEMENTARY, SECONDARY, OR HIGHER EDUCATION WHO IS PARTICIPATING IN OR
ATTENDING A SPORTING EVENT OR OTHER EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAM
SPONSORED BY THE INSTITUTION WHERE THE OFFENSE OCCURS.

A person may not willfully disturb or otherwise willfully prevent the orderly
conduct of the activities, administration, or classes of any institution of elementary,
secondary, or higher education.

A person may not molest or threaten with bodily harm any student,
employee, administrator, agent, or any other individual who is lawfully:

(1) On the grounds or in the immediate vicinity of any institution of
elementary, secondary, or higher education;

(2) On a school vehicle;

(3) At an activity sponsored by a school that is held off school property; or

(4) On property that is owned by a county board and is used for
administrative or other purposes.

A person may not threaten with bodily harm any employee of any institution of elementary,
secondary, or higher education at home by any means, including in person, by telephone,
or by electronic mail.

The prohibition in paragraph (1) of this subsection applies only to threats arising out of the scope of the employee’s employment.

In addition to the penalties provided in this section or in § 6–409 of the
Criminal Law Article, on application by the governing board of any institution of
elementary, secondary, or higher education, the circuit court of the county in which the
institution is located may issue an injunction restraining any specific activities that violate this section.

[(e)] Any person who violates any provision of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding $2,500, imprisonment not exceeding 6 months, or both.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2022.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.