

# SENATE BILL 285

G1, E1  
SB 713/21 – EHE

2lr0852

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By: **Senator Hough**

Introduced and read first time: January 19, 2022

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Campaign Signs – Prohibitions**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the offense of willfully and maliciously destroying,  
4 injuring, or defacing campaign signs; establishing the offense of willfully and  
5 knowingly obtaining or exerting unauthorized control over campaign signs under  
6 certain circumstances; and generally relating to campaign signs.

7 BY adding to

8 Article – Election Law

9 Section 16–904

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

13 Article – Election Law

14 Section 16–1001(b) and (c)

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Election Law**

20 **16–904.**

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

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

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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 June  
24 1, 2022.