

# SENATE BILL 298

E1, J1  
SB 957/21 – SRU

EMERGENCY BILL

2lr0980  
CF HB 267

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By: **Senators Young, Benson, Feldman, and Lam**

Introduced and read first time: January 19, 2022

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Law – Threat Against Public Health Official or Hospital Staff Member**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from making or sending a threat to a public health  
4 official or hospital staff member with a certain intent; and generally relating to the  
5 prohibition against making or sending threats to public health officials and hospital  
6 staff members.

7 BY adding to

8 Article – Criminal Law

9 Section 3–708.1

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Criminal Law**

15 **3–708.1.**

16 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
17 INDICATED.

18 (2) “HOSPITAL STAFF MEMBER” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO WORKS  
19 IN A HOSPITAL WHOSE DUTIES INCLUDE THE PERSONAL CARE OR MEDICAL  
20 TREATMENT OF PATIENTS.

21 (3) “PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIAL” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYED  
22 BY A STATE OR LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(4) "THREAT" MEANS:**

2                   **(I) AN ORAL THREAT; OR**

3                           **(II) A THREAT IN ANY WRITTEN FORM, WHETHER OR NOT THE**  
4 **WRITING IS SIGNED, OR, IF THE WRITING IS SIGNED, WHETHER OR NOT IT IS SIGNED**  
5 **WITH A FICTITIOUS NAME OR ANY OTHER MARK.**

6           **(B) A PERSON MAY NOT KNOWINGLY AND WILLFULLY MAKE A THREAT TO A**  
7 **PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIAL OR HOSPITAL STAFF MEMBER WITH THE INTENT TO**  
8 **INTIMIDATE, INTERFERE WITH, OR IMPEDE A PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICIAL OR**  
9 **HOSPITAL STAFF MEMBER FROM PERFORMING OFFICIAL DUTIES.**

10           **(C) A PERSON MAY NOT KNOWINGLY SEND, DELIVER, PART WITH, OR MAKE**  
11 **FOR THE PURPOSE OF SENDING OR DELIVERING A THREAT PROHIBITED UNDER**  
12 **SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.**

13           **(D) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR**  
14 **AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 90 DAYS OR A**  
15 **FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$500 OR BOTH.**

16           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency  
17 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has  
18 been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to  
19 each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is  
20 enacted.