

HOUSE BILL 978

E1

3lr2277
CF SB 568

By: **Delegates Ciliberti and Miller**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2023

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Law – Threat Against State or Local Official – First Responder**

3 FOR the purpose of including first responders within the scope of certain prohibitions
4 against making or delivering threats to take the life of, kidnap, or cause physical
5 injury to certain State and local officials; and generally relating to threats against
6 State and local officials.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Criminal Law
9 Section 3–708
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2022 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.

16 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

17 (2) **“FIRST RESPONDER” MEANS:**

18 (I) **A FIREFIGHTER;**

19 (II) **AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN;**

20 (III) **A PARAMEDIC;**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (IV) A RESCUE SQUAD MEMBER; AND

2 (V) A NURSE OR A DOCTOR WHO PROVIDES EMERGENCY
3 SERVICES.

4 [(2)] (3) “Local official” means an individual serving in a publicly elected
5 office of a local government unit, as defined in § 10–101 of the State Government Article.

6 [(3)] (4) (i) “State official” has the meaning stated in § 5–101 of the
7 General Provisions Article.

8 (ii) “State official” includes the Governor, Governor–elect,
9 Lieutenant Governor, and Lieutenant Governor–elect.

10 [(4)] (5) “Threat” includes:

11 (i) an oral threat; or

12 (ii) a threat in any written form, whether or not the writing is signed,
13 or if the writing is signed, whether or not it is signed with a fictitious name or any other
14 mark.

15 (b) A person may not knowingly and willfully make a threat to take the life of,
16 kidnap, or cause physical injury to a State official, a local official, a deputy State’s Attorney,
17 an assistant State’s Attorney, [or] an assistant Public Defender, **OR A FIRST RESPONDER.**

18 (c) A person may not knowingly send, deliver, part with, or make for the purpose
19 of sending or delivering a threat prohibited under subsection (b) of this section.

20 (d) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction
21 is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or a fine not exceeding \$2,500 or both.

22 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
23 October 1, 2023.