E1 5lr0957 (PRE-FILED) CF 5lr0958

By: Delegate Conaway

Requested: September 26, 2024

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025

Assigned to: Judiciary

## A BILL ENTITLED

4	AT	AOD	•
1	AN	ACT	concerning

## 2 Criminal Law – Taking and Breaking Open Letters – Penalty

- 3 FOR the purpose of altering the penalty for violating the prohibition against taking and
- 4 breaking open a letter addressed to another without the other's permission; and
- 5 generally relating to taking and breaking open a letter addressed to another.
- 6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
- 7 Article Criminal Law
- 8 Section 3–905
- 9 Annotated Code of Maryland
- 10 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)
- 11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
- 12 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

## 13 Article – Criminal Law

- 14 3–905.
- 15 (a) A person may not take and break open a letter that is not addressed to the
- 16 person without permission from the person to whom the letter is addressed or the personal
- 17 representative of the addressee's estate.
- 18 (b) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction
- is subject to imprisonment for 6 days and a fine of [\$15] \$500.
- SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
- 21 October 1, 2025.