E1 5lr0632 CF 5lr2245

By: Delegate Rosenberg

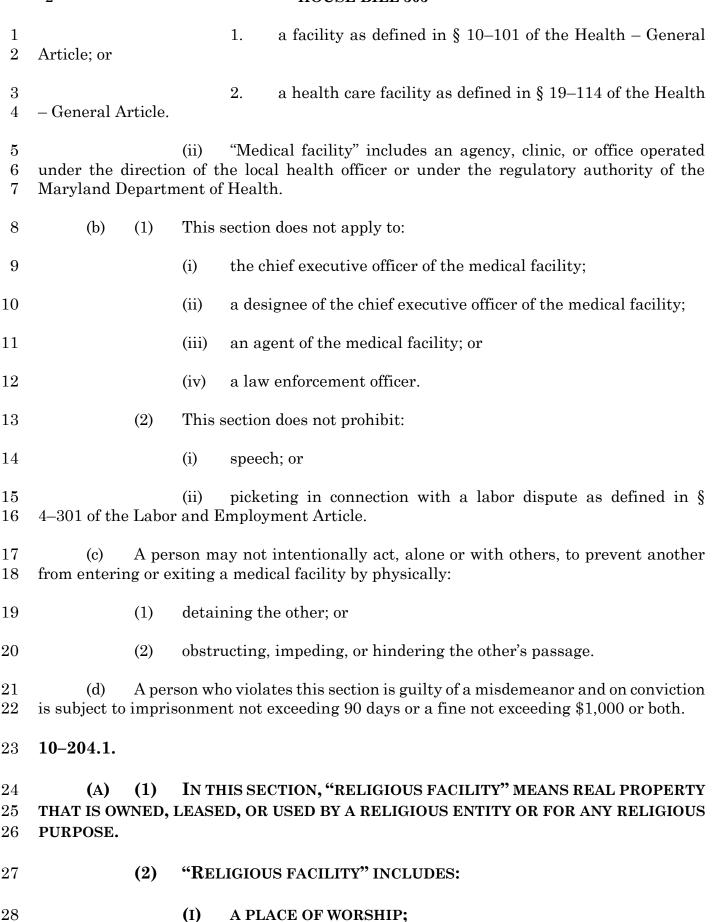
Introduced and read first time: January 9, 2025

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

Criminal Law - Interference With Access to or Egress From a Religious Facility
– Prohibition
FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person, acting alone or with others, from preventing another from entering or exiting a religious facility; and generally relating to access to or egress from religious facilities.
BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Criminal Law
Section 10–204 and 10–302
Annotated Code of Maryland (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)
BY adding to
Article – Criminal Law
Section 10–204.1
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)
SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND.
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:
Article – Criminal Law
10–204.
(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.
(2) (i) "Medical facility" means:





1	(II) A CEMETERY;
2 3	(III) A RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, EDUCATIONAL FACILITY, OR COMMUNITY CENTER; AND
4	(IV) THE GROUNDS ADJACENT TO THEM.
5	(B) (1) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO:
6 7	(I) THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE RELIGIOUS FACILITY;
8 9	(II) A DESIGNEE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE RELIGIOUS FACILITY;
10	(III) AN AGENT OF THE RELIGIOUS FACILITY; OR
11	(IV) A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.
12	(2) This section does not prohibit speech.
13 14 15	(C) A PERSON MAY NOT INTENTIONALLY ACT, ALONE OR WITH OTHERS, TO PREVENT ANOTHER FROM ENTERING OR EXITING A RELIGIOUS FACILITY BY PHYSICALLY:
16	(1) DETAINING THE OTHER; OR
17	(2) OBSTRUCTING, IMPEDING, OR HINDERING THE OTHER'S PASSAGE.
18 19 20	(D) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 90 DAYS OR A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$1,000 OR BOTH.
21	10–302.
22 23 24	A person may not deface, damage, or destroy, or attempt or threaten to deface, damage, or destroy, personal or real property that is owned, leased, or used by a religious entity or for any religious purpose including:
25	(1) a place of worship;
26	(2) a cemetery;

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- 1 (3) a religious school, educational facility, or community center; and
- 2 (4) the grounds adjacent to them.
- 3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect 4 October 1, 2025.