SENATE BILL 122

5lr1566 E4SB 609/24 - JPR(PRE-FILED) By: Senator Folden Requested: October 31, 2024 Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025 Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings A BILL ENTITLED AN ACT concerning Criminal Law - Hate Crimes - Law Enforcement Officers FOR the purpose of including law enforcement officers within the scope of certain prohibitions against committing certain crimes against certain persons, damaging certain property of certain persons, burning certain objects, and damaging certain buildings with which certain persons or groups have contacts or associations or under circumstances exhibiting animosity against a certain person or group; and generally relating to hate crimes against law enforcement officers. BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments, Article – Criminal Law Section 10–301, 10–304, and 10–305 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 10-301. In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated. (a) (b) "Gender identity" has the meaning stated in § 20–101 of the State Government Article. "Homeless" means: (c)

lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; or

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

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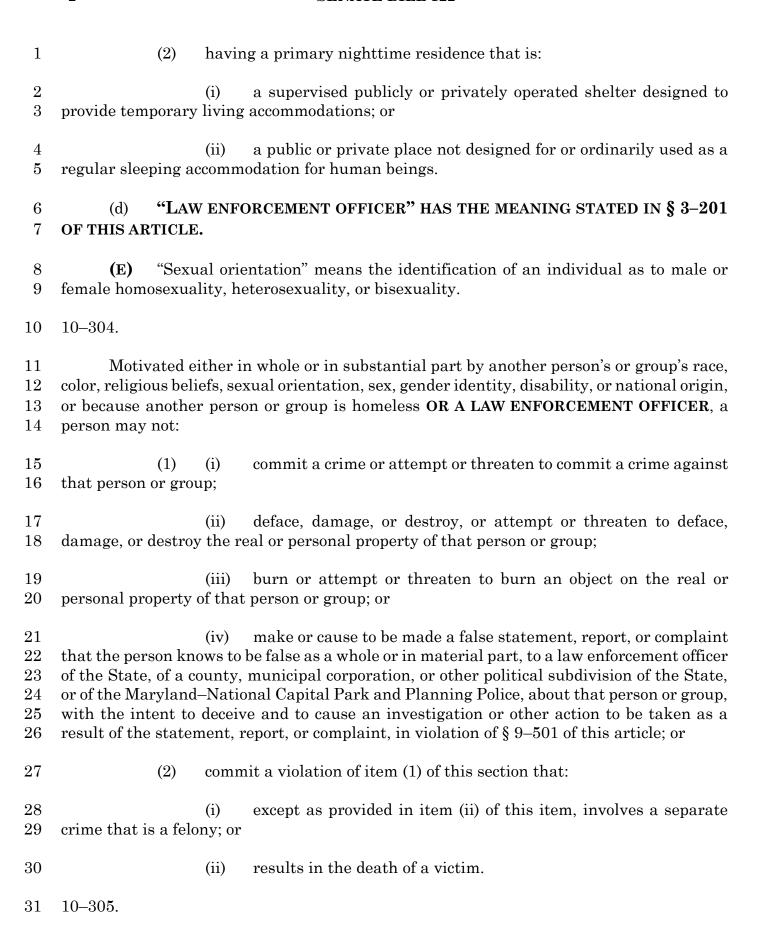
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A person may not deface, damage, or destroy, attempt or threaten to deface, damage, or destroy, burn or attempt or threaten to burn an object on, or damage the real or personal property connected to a building that is publicly or privately owned, leased, or used, including a cemetery, library, meeting hall, recreation center, or school:

(1) because a person or group of a particular race, color, religious belief, sexual orientation, sex, gender identity, disability, or national origin[, or because a person or group that is homeless,] has contacts or is associated with the building; [or]

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- 8 (2) BECAUSE A PERSON OR GROUP THAT IS HOMELESS HAS CONTACTS 9 OR IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE BUILDING;
- 10 (3) BECAUSE A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OR GROUP OF LAW
 11 ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS HAS CONTACTS OR IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE BUILDING;
 12 OR
- [(2)] (4) if there is evidence that exhibits animosity against a person or group [, because of the race, color, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, sex, gender identity, disability, or national origin of that person or group or because that person or group is homeless]:
- 17 (I) BECAUSE OF THE RACE, COLOR, RELIGIOUS BELIEFS, 18 SEXUAL ORIENTATION, SEX, GENDER IDENTITY, DISABILITY, OR NATIONAL ORIGIN 19 OF THAT PERSON OR GROUP;
- 20 (II) BECAUSE THAT PERSON OR GROUP IS HOMELESS; OR
- 21 (III) BECAUSE THAT PERSON IS A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER 22 OR BECAUSE THAT GROUP CONSISTS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.
- SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2025.