

HOUSE BILL 750

E1
HB 305/25 – JUD

6lr0790
CF SB 177

By: **Delegates Rosenberg, Cardin, and Stinnett**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2026

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Law – Interference With Access to or Egress From a Religious**
3 **Facility – Prohibition**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person, acting alone or with others, from preventing
5 another from entering or exiting a religious facility; and generally relating to access
6 to or egress from religious facilities.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
8 Article – Criminal Law
9 Section 10–204 and 10–302
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

12 BY adding to
13 Article – Criminal Law
14 Section 10–204.1
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

19 **Article – Criminal Law**

20 10–204.

21 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.
22 (2) (i) “Medical facility” means:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



8 (b) (1) This section does not apply to:

9 (i) the chief executive officer of the medical facility;

10 (ii) a designee of the chief executive officer of the medical facility;

11 (iii) an agent of the medical facility; or

12 (iv) a law enforcement officer.

13 (2) This section does not prohibit:

14 (i) speech; or

15 (ii) picketing in connection with a labor dispute as defined in §
16 4-301 of the Labor and Employment Article.

17 (c) A person may not intentionally act, alone or with others, to prevent another
18 from entering or exiting a medical facility by physically:

19 (1) detaining the other; or

20 (2) obstructing, impeding, or hindering the other's passage.

21 (d) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction
22 is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 90 days or a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or both.

23 10-204.1.

24 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION, "RELIGIOUS FACILITY" MEANS REAL PROPERTY
25 THAT IS OWNED, LEASED, OR USED BY A RELIGIOUS ENTITY OR FOR ANY RELIGIOUS
26 PURPOSE

27 (2) "RELIGIOUS FACILITY" INCLUDES:

(I) A PLACE OF WORSHIP:

(II) A CEMETERY;

2 (III) A RELIGIOUS SCHOOL, EDUCATIONAL FACILITY, OR
3 COMMUNITY CENTER; AND

(IV) THE GROUNDS ADJACENT TO THEM.

(B) (1) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO:

(I) THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE RELIGIOUS FACILITY;

(II) A DESIGNEE OF THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE RELIGIOUS

(III) AN AGENT OF THE RELIGIOUS FACILITY;

(IV) A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER; OR

(V) A PERSON:

1. AUTHORIZED BY THE RELIGIOUS AUTHORITY TO
US FACILITY OR THE RELIGIOUS FACILITY'S ACTIVITIES; OR

2. OTHERWISE ACTING IN GOOD FAITH ON THE BEHALF TO PROTECT THE RELIGIOUS FACILITY OR THE ACTIVITIES.

(2) THIS SECTION DOES NOT PROHIBIT SPEECH.

18 (C) A RELIGIOUS FACILITY HAS SOLE DISCRETION IN DETERMINING WHO
19 MAY BE ON THE RELIGIOUS FACILITY'S PREMISES, AS DETERMINED BY THE
20 INTERNAL DICTATES OF THE RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION.

21 (D) A PERSON MAY NOT INTENTIONALLY ACT, ALONE OR WITH OTHERS, TO
22 PREVENT ANOTHER FROM ENTERING OR EXITING A RELIGIOUS FACILITY BY
23 PHYSICALLY:

(1) DETAINING THE OTHER: OR

(2) OBSTRUCTING, IMPEDED, OR HINDERED THE OTHER'S PASSAGE.

1 **(E) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR**
2 **AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 90 DAYS OR A**
3 **FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$1,000 OR BOTH.**

4 10-302.

5 A person may not deface, damage, or destroy, or attempt or threaten to deface,
6 damage, or destroy, personal or real property that is owned, leased, or used by a religious
7 entity or for any religious purpose including:

- 8 (1) a place of worship;
- 9 (2) a cemetery;
- 10 (3) a religious school, educational facility, or community center; and
- 11 (4) the grounds adjacent to them.

12 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
13 October 1, 2026.