

# SENATE BILL 676

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6lr1356

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By: **Senator A. Washington**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Law – Threat of Mass Violence – Penalty**

3 FOR the purpose of altering from a misdemeanor to a felony the crime of making a threat  
4 of mass violence; and generally relating to threats of mass violence.

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
6 Article – Criminal Law  
7 Section 3–1001  
8 Annotated Code of Maryland  
9 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

12 **Article – Criminal Law**

13 3–1001.

14 (a) This section applies to a threat made by oral or written communication or  
15 electronic communication, as defined in § 3–805(a) of this title.

16 (b) A person may not knowingly threaten to commit or threaten to cause to be  
17 committed a crime of violence, as defined in § 14–101 of this article, that would place five  
18 or more people at substantial risk of death or serious physical injury, as defined in § 3–201  
19 of this title, if the threat were carried out.

20 (c) (1) A person who violates this section is guilty of the [misdemeanor]  
21 **FELONY** of making a threat of mass violence and on conviction is subject to imprisonment  
22 not exceeding 10 years or a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or both.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1                   (2)     In addition to the penalties provided in paragraph (1) of this subsection,  
2 a court shall order a person convicted under this section to reimburse the appropriate unit  
3 of federal, State, or local government or other person for any expenses and losses incurred  
4 in responding to the unlawful threat unless the court states on the record the reasons why  
5 reimbursement would be inappropriate.

6                   (d)     A person who violates this section may be indicted, prosecuted, tried, and  
7 convicted in any county where:

8                   (1)     the threat was received;

9                   (2)     the threat was made; or

10                  (3)     the consequences of the threat occurred.

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