



St., Baltimore, MD 21201  
800-492-1964  
| tdd 410-539-3186

---

**To:** Members of The House Judiciary Committee

**From:** Doyle Niemann, Chair, Legislative Committee, Criminal Law and Practice Section

**Date:** February 4, 2022

**Subject:** **HB427 – Executive or Legislative Proceedings - Obstruction**

**Position:** **Support**

---

The Legislative Committee of the Criminal Law & Practice Section of the Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) **Supports HB427 – Executive or Legislative Proceedings – Obstruction.**

This bill makes it a misdemeanor offense to intentionally obstruct or impede executive or legislation proceedings by threat of force or other corrupt means.

In today’s polarized and emotionally charged environment, where the examples of individuals and groups who deliberately and intentionally try to impede or stop governmental functions, this bill fills a gap. It does not impinge on the exercise of free speech or even civil disobedience if the parties so choose because it explicitly requires that there be threats of force or other corrupt means.

While “corrupt means” is an undefined term the Committee believes there is sufficient guidance in case law and practice to ensure that remains narrowly defined.

For the reasons stated, we **Support HB427 – Executive or Legislative Proceedings - Obstruction.**

If you have questions about the position of the Criminal Law and Practice Section’s Legislative Committee, please feel free to address them to me at 240-606-1298 or at [doyleniemann@verizon.net](mailto:doyleniemann@verizon.net).