

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor

Senate Bill No. 263

AN ACT concerning

Domestic Violence - Protective Orders - Definition of Abuse

FOR the purpose of altering the definition of "abuse" applicable to certain proceedings to include ~~harassment, and~~ stalking, ~~trespass, and malicious destruction of property;~~ and generally relating to certain petitions for relief from abuse.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Family Law
Section 4-501(b)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2004 Replacement Volume)

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

Article - Family Law

4-501.

(b) (1) "Abuse" means any of the following acts:

- (i) an act that causes serious bodily harm;
- (ii) an act that places a person eligible for relief in fear of imminent serious bodily harm;
- (iii) assault in any degree;
- (iv) rape or sexual offense under §§ 3-303 through 3-308 of the Criminal Law Article or attempted rape or sexual offense in any degree; **[or]**

(v) false imprisonment; OR

(VI) ~~HARASSMENT UNDER § 3-803 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE;~~

OR

~~(VII) STALKING UNDER § 3-802 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE;~~

~~(VIII) TRESPASS UNDER TITLE 6, SUBTITLE 4 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE; OR~~

~~(IX) MALICIOUS DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY UNDER § 6-301 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE.~~

(2) If the person for whom relief is sought is a child, "abuse" may also include abuse of a child, as defined in Title 5, Subtitle 7 of this article. Nothing in this