

**CHAPTER 166**  
**(Senate Bill 460)**

AN ACT concerning

**Criminal Law - Conversion of Leased or Rented Goods**

FOR the purpose of repealing a limitation on granting immunity against prosecution for the conversion of a certain good or thing of value only to a bona fide resident of the State who returns the good or thing of value within a certain period of time; ~~altering a certain penalty~~; and generally relating to immunity from prosecution for the conversion of a certain good or thing of value under certain circumstances.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Criminal Law

Section 8-407

Annotated Code of Maryland

(As enacted by Chapter 26 (H.B. 11) of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2002)

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

**Article - Criminal Law**

8-407.

(a) This section applies to a written lease notwithstanding that the lease contains an option to purchase the good or thing of value if the lease:

- (1) does not exceed a period of 6 months; and
- (2) is not for nominal consideration.

(b) A person may not fraudulently convert to the person's own use a good or thing of value received under a written contract or written lease entered into for the purpose of renting or leasing things for valuable consideration.

(c) The failure to return the good or thing of value to the possession of, or account for the good or thing of value with, the person who delivered the good or thing of value at the time or in the manner described in the written contract or written lease is prima facie evidence of intent to fraudulently convert the good or thing of value.

(d) (1) A person may not be prosecuted under this section if [the person:

(i) is a bona fide resident of the State; and

(ii)] within 10 days after a written demand for the return of the good or thing of value is mailed by certified United States mail, return receipt requested, to