

## Senate Bill No. 430

AN ACT concerning

**Cable Television – Theft of Service**

FOR the purpose of prohibiting certain actions ~~that interfere with~~ relating to the equipment or service of cable television or ~~with to~~ satellite cable programming ~~with the intent to deprive certain companies of lawful compensation for certain services;~~ specifying that certain possession ~~or certain action~~ is prima facie evidence of an intent to ~~facilitate certain prohibited acts~~ violate this Act; specifying certain civil liability; providing certain legal remedies; providing certain penalties; defining a term; and generally relating to the theft of service from cable television companies.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 27 – Crimes and Punishments

Section 194B

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1987 Replacement Volume and 1991 Supplement)

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

**Article 27 – Crimes and Punishments**

194B.

(A) IN THIS SECTION “CABLE TELEVISION SERVICE” MEANS:

- (1) CABLE AND SATELLITE CABLE PROGRAMMING;
- (2) SERVICE PROVIDED BY OR THROUGH THE FACILITY OF A CABLE TELEVISION SYSTEM OR CLOSED CIRCUIT COAXIAL CABLE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM; OR
- (3) A MICROWAVE, SATELLITE, OR SIMILAR TRANSMISSION SERVICE USED WITH A CABLE TELEVISION SYSTEM OR CLOSED CIRCUIT COAXIAL CABLE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM.

[(a)](B) A person may not:

- (1) DESTROY, DAMAGE, CUT, tamper with, install, tap, remove, displace, or make any connection with any wire, conduit, apparatus, or other equipment of a franchised cable television company or private cable television company with the intent to [obtain] RECEIVE cable television services without payment;
- (2) PREVENT, OBSTRUCT, OR DELAY THE SENDING, CONVEYANCE, DISTRIBUTION, OR RECEIPT OF PROGRAMMING MATERIAL TRANSMITTED BY A FRANCHISED CABLE TELEVISION COMPANY OR A PRIVATE CABLE TELEVISION COMPANY;