

BY renumbering

Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments
 Section 557B and 557C, respectively
 to be Section 557A and 557B, respectively
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (1996 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments
 Section 557C through ~~557G~~ 557F, inclusive, to be under the new subheading
 "Telecommunications Act"
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (1996 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~

~~Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings
 Section 10-402(c)(2) and 10-406
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (1996 Replacement Volume and 1997 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

[557A.

It is unlawful for any person knowingly to make, sell, offer or advertise for sale, possess, or give or otherwise transfer to another any instrument, apparatus, equipment, or device or plans or instructions for making or assembling any instrument, apparatus, equipment, or device which has been designed, adapted, used, or employed with the intent or for the purpose of (1) obtaining telephone or telegraph service or the transmission of a message, signal, or other communication by telephone or telegraph, or over telephone or telegraph facilities, without the payment of charges therefor; or (2) concealing or assisting another to conceal from any supplier of telephone or telegraph service or from any person charged with the responsibility of enforcing this section, the existence or place of origin or of destination of any message, signal, or other communication by telephone or telegraph, or over telephone or telegraph facilities.

Any person who violates any provision of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by imprisonment not exceeding twelve months, or by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars, or by both such fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the court. Any such instrument, apparatus, equipment, or device, or plans or instructions therefor, may be seized by court order or under a warrant; and, upon a conviction, which has become final, of any person owning the seized materials, or having any ownership interest therein, for a violation