

New sections. seven of the Code of Public General Laws, entitled "Crimes and Punishments," to be inserted after section two hundred and fifty-seven of the said article, and to be designated sections two hundred and fifty-seven A and two hundred and fifty-seven B, under the sub-title "Threats and Threatening Letters."

Threatening letters. 257 A. Every person who shall knowingly send or deliver, or shall make, and for the purpose of being delivered or sent, shall part with the possession of any letter or writing with or without a name subscribed thereto, or signed with a fictitious name, or with any letter, mark or other designation, threatening therein to accuse any person of any crime of an indictable nature under the laws of this State, or of anything, which, if true, would bring such person into contempt or disrepute, or to do any injury to the person or property of any one, with a view or intent to extort or gain any money, goods or chattels or other valuable thing, shall be guilty of felony, and being convicted thereof shall be punished by imprisonment in the penitentiary for not less than two nor more than ten years.

Verbal threats. 257 B. Every person who shall verbally threaten to accuse any person of any crime of an indictable nature under the laws of this State, or of anything which, if true, would bring such person into contempt or disrepute, or to do any injury to the person or property of any one, with a view to extort or gain any money, goods or chattels or any other valuable thing, shall be guilty of felony, and being convicted thereof shall be punished by imprisonment in the penitentiary for not less than two nor more than ten years.

Effective. SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That this act shall take effect from the date of its passage.

Approved April 4, 1896.

CHAPTER 397.

AN ACT to appropriate one thousand dollars to the support of the Aged Men and Women's Home of the Methodist Episcopal Churches of the Washington Annual Conference of Baltimore city.

Appropriation. SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That the sum of five hundred dollars for the fiscal year 1897, and the like sum of five hundred dollars for the fiscal