

## CHAPTER 450

(House Bill 774)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 531A of Article 27 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1947 Supplement), title "Crimes and Punishments," sub-title "Personating Officers," including the shoulder patch of the Department of Maryland State Police among the insignia or emblems of office which it is unlawful to use or imitate without authority.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Section 531A of Article 27 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1947 Supplement), title "Crimes and Punishments," sub-title "Personating Officers," be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

531A. It shall be unlawful for any person falsely to represent himself as being a member of the police force of the State, of Baltimore City or of any county or municipal corporation of the State, or to represent himself as a sheriff, deputy sheriff or constable, with fraudulent design upon person or property, or to have, use, wear or display, without the authority of the Superintendent of State Police, the Commissioner of Police of Baltimore City or the Chief of Police of any county or municipal corporation, or of a sheriff, deputy sheriff or constable, any uniform, shield, button, ornament, badge, *shoulder patch adopted by the Department of Maryland State Police to be worn by the members of said Department*, insignia or emblem of office, such as are worn by the members of the respective police forces or sheriff or constable, or to have any simulation or imitation of such articles for the purpose of deception. Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be subject to a fine of not more than One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) or to imprisonment for not more than six months, or to both such fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the Court.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1951.

Approved April 13, 1951.

EXPLANATION: *Italics indicate new matter added to existing law.*  
[Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.  
CAPITALS indicate amendments to bill.  
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken out of bill.