

*there has been a serious and tremendous increase in Maryland in the number and variety of comic books of the types and kinds prohibited by this sub-title, dealing in substantial part with crimes, and that many of such crime comic books are designed and formed so as to resemble closely other books devoted in substance to matters of humor published primarily for sale to children, being often placed for sale side by side with the humorous publications. The General Assembly also finds and determines that children below the age of eighteen years, being of susceptible and impressionable character, are or may be incited to commit certain crimes, in good part through the influence of these vicious and corrupt publications, and that great numbers of these books are deliberately calculated to horrify and excite unreasonable terror in the impressionable minds of children, and do or may produce such results. The General Assembly further finds that the persons publishing and distributing these books do so with the full knowledge and intent that the same may be sold to children under the age of eighteen and further finds that a major and substantial portion of the market for such crime comic books is composed of children under the age of eighteen years and that such books are intended for such market.*

*516B. (a). Crime Books Prohibited. It shall be unlawful and an offense for any person to wilfully sell or distribute to any child below the age of eighteen years, or have in his possession with intent to sell, distribute or otherwise offer for sale or distribution to any child below the age of eighteen years, any book, pamphlet, magazine or other printed paper principally composed of pictures and specifically including but not limited to comic books, devoted to the publication and exploitation of actual or fictional deeds of violent bloodshed, lust or immorality, or which, for a child below the age of eighteen years, are obscene, lewd, lascivious, filthy, indecent or disgusting and so presented as reasonably to tend to incite a child below the age of eighteen years to violence or depraved or immoral acts against the person.*

*(b) Sales of Indecent Publications to Minors. It shall be unlawful and an offense for any person to wilfully sell or distribute to any child below the age of eighteen years, or have in his possession with intent to sell, distribute or otherwise offer for sale to any child below the age of eighteen years any book, pamphlet, magazine or other printed paper, specifically including but not limited to comic books, devoted to the publication and exploitation of sex or of matter of an indecent character which, for a child below the age of eighteen years, is obscene, lewd, lascivious, filthy, indecent or disgusting or which are devoted to the publication and exploitation of actual or fictional deeds of violent bloodshed, lust, or immorality which are so presented as reasonably to tend to incite such child below the age of eighteen years to violence or depraved or immoral acts against the person.*

*516C. Distribution of Indecent Articles; Tie-in Sales. No person, co-partnership or corporation shall, as a condition to a sale or delivery for resale of any book, pamphlet, magazine or other printed paper specifically including but not limited to comic books, require that the purchaser or consignee receive for resale any other book, pamphlet, magazine or other printed paper the sale or distribution of which is prohibited to a child below the age of eighteen years by this sub-title.*