

shall take effect July 1, 1978.

Approved May 16, 1978.

CHAPTER 448

(Senate Bill 257)

AN ACT concerning

Extortion

FOR the purpose of prohibiting certain governmental officials from committing extortion and providing penalties including a prohibition against future employment; prohibiting the implied repeal of certain common law statutes; providing for penalties; and generally relating to extortion.

BY adding to

Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments
Section 562B
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1976 Replacement Volume and 1977 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows:

Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments

562B.

EVERY OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, A COUNTY, BALTIMORE CITY, A MUNICIPALITY OR ~~MULTICOUNTY BI-COUNTY OR MULTI-COUNTY~~ AGENCY, WHO OBTAINS OR ATTEMPTS TO OBTAIN, BY EXTORTION, FROM ANY PERSON A SUM OF MONEY, REAL OR PERSONAL PROPERTY OR ANY THING OF VALUE THAT EXCEEDS \$500, IS GUILTY OF A FELONY AND SHALL BE FINED NOT MORE THAN \$5,000 OR IMPRISONED NOT MORE THAN TEN YEARS OR BOTH AND, NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PARDON, SHALL BE PERMANENTLY BARRED FROM EMPLOYMENT BY THE STATE OF MARYLAND, ANY COUNTY, MUNICIPALITY OR ~~BI-COUNTY OR MULTICOUNTY~~ AGENCY ~~EXCEPT THAT, IF, IF~~ THE PROPERTY EXTORTED DOES NOT EXCEED \$500, IT IS A MISDEMEANOR AND THE PUNISHMENT SHALL BE LIMITED TO A FINE OF NOT MORE THAN \$500 OR IMPRISONMENT FOR ~~30 DAYS SIX MONTHS~~ OR BOTH. FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION, EXTORTION MEANS THE WRONGFUL OBTAINING OF THE PROPERTY FROM ANOTHER WITH HIS CONSENT, WHICH CONSENT WAS OBTAINED UNDER COLOR OR PRETENSE OF OFFICE OR UNDER COLOR OF OFFICIAL RIGHT, OR BY WRONGFUL USE OF ACTUAL OR THREATENED FORCE, VIOLENCE, ~~OR BY WRONGFUL THREAT OF ECONOMIC INJURY.~~ A PROSECUTION FOR THE FELONY OFFENSE UNDER THIS SECTION