

Approved May 2, 2006.

CHAPTER 357

(House Bill 850)

AN ACT concerning

Crimes - ~~Access to and Visual Displays at Burial, Memorial Service, Funeral, or Funeral Procession~~

FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from knowingly obstructing, hindering, impeding, or blocking another person's entry to or exit from a burial, memorial service, funeral, or funeral procession ~~at certain times under certain circumstances~~; prohibiting a person from displaying visual images that convey fighting words within a certain distance of a burial, memorial service, funeral, or funeral procession ~~addressing certain speech to a person attending a funeral, burial, memorial service, or funeral procession that is likely to incite or produce an imminent breach of the peace~~; prohibiting certain picketing; providing penalties for a violation of this Act; ~~making the provisions of this Act severable~~; and generally relating to ~~access to and visual displays prohibiting certain speech likely to incite or produce an imminent breach of the peace and acts at burials, memorial services, funerals, or funeral processions under certain circumstances.~~

BY adding to

Article - Criminal Law

Section 10-205

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2002 Volume and 2005 Supplement)

Preamble

~~WHEREAS, The General Assembly recognizes that the exercise of a person's right to voice their objections to the involvement of the United States in war must be balanced against another person's right to personal safety during a funeral, burial, memorial service, or funeral procession of a person who has served in a war; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Disrupting a funeral, burial, memorial service, or funeral procession in a manner that endangers the health, safety, and welfare of a person is a matter of statewide concern; now, therefore,~~

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows: