

**CHAPTER 571**

**(House Bill 692)**

AN ACT concerning

**Hate Crimes Penalties Act - Expanding Prohibitions and Protected Classes of People**

FOR the purpose of expanding the scope of the prohibition against damaging property of certain places of worship to include any place of worship; expanding the scope of the prohibition against harassment, destruction of certain property, and damage to certain buildings to include sexual orientation of a person or group of people; providing for the construction of certain provisions of law; defining a certain term; making technical changes; and generally relating to hate crimes and penalties.

BY adding to

Article - Criminal Law

Section 10-301 and 10-308

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2002 Volume and 2004 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Criminal Law

Section 10-301 through 10-306

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2002 Volume and 2004 Supplement)

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

**Article - Criminal Law**

10-301.

IN THIS SUBTITLE, "SEXUAL ORIENTATION" MEANS THE IDENTIFICATION OF AN INDIVIDUAL AS TO MALE OR FEMALE HOMOSEXUALITY, HETEROSEXUALITY, BISEXUALITY, OR GENDER-RELATED IDENTITY.

[10-301.] 10-302.

A person may not deface, damage, or destroy, or attempt to deface, damage, or destroy, personal or real property that is owned, leased, or used by a religious entity or for any religious purpose including:

- (1) [a church, synagogue, or other] A place of worship;
- (2) a cemetery;
- (3) a religious school, educational facility, or community center; and