

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

Article - Criminal Law

3-702.

(a) IN THIS SECTION, "POLITICAL SUBDIVISION" INCLUDES A:

- (1) COUNTY;
- (2) MUNICIPAL CORPORATION;
- (3) BICOUNTY OR MULTICOUNTY AGENCY;
- (4) COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION;
- (5) PUBLIC AUTHORITY; OR
- (6) SPECIAL TAXING DISTRICT.

(B) An officer or employee of the State or of a [county, municipal corporation, bicounty agency, or multicounty agency] POLITICAL SUBDIVISION may not wrongfully obtain or attempt to obtain money, property, or anything of value from a person with the person's consent, if the consent is obtained under color or pretense of office, under color of official right, or by wrongful use of actual or threatened force or violence.

[(b)] (C) If the value of the property is \$500 or more, a person who violates this section:

(1) is guilty of the felony of extortion and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding ~~10~~ 15 years or a fine not exceeding ~~5,000~~ 25,000 or both; and

(2) notwithstanding any pardon, shall be barred permanently from employment by the State or by a [county, municipal corporation, bicounty agency, or multicounty agency] POLITICAL SUBDIVISION.

[(c)] (D) If the value of the property is less than \$500, a person who violates this section is guilty of the misdemeanor of extortion and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding ~~6~~ 18 months or a fine not exceeding \$500 or both.

[(d)] (E) A prosecution for a felony under this section shall be instituted within 5 years after the crime was committed.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2005.

May 26, 2005

The Honorable Michael E. Busch
Speaker of the House
State House
Annapolis, MD 21401