

CHAPTER 738

(House Bill 692)

AN ACT concerning

Bad Checks - Notice of Dishonor - Criminal
Prohibitions and Penalties

FOR the purpose of providing that criminal prohibitions and penalties relating to the making, sending, or delivering of threatening letters do not apply to a holder of an instrument who gives to the maker a bona fide reasonable notice of dishonor of a bad check and warning of criminal prosecution.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments
Section 561
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1982 Replacement Volume and 1985 Supplement)

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

Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments

561.

(A) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, EVERY [Every] person who shall knowingly send or deliver, or shall make, and, for the purpose of being delivered or sent, shall part with the possession of any letter or writing with or without a name subscribed thereto, or signed with a fictitious name, or with any letter, mark or other designation, threatening therein to accuse any person of any crime of an indictable nature under the laws of this State, or of anything, which, if true, would bring such person into contempt or disrepute or to do any injury to the person or property of anyone, with a view or intent to extort or gain any money, goods or chattels or other valuable thing shall be guilty of felony, and being convicted thereof shall be punished by imprisonment in the penitentiary for not less than two nor more than ten years.

(B) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO ANY HOLDER OF AN INSTRUMENT WHO GIVES TO THE MAKER A BONA FIDE REASONABLE NOTICE OF DISHONOR AND WARNING OF CRIMINAL PROSECUTION UNDER ~~§-143~~ §§ 140 THROUGH 144 OF THIS ARTICLE.