

CHAPTER 477

(House Bill 1618)

AN ACT concerning

Criminal Law - Threats Against State Officials

FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from sending, delivering, or making certain writings or documents containing threats upon certain State officials; prohibiting a person from knowingly and willfully making certain threats against certain State officials; defining certain terms; providing certain penalties for a violation of this Act; and generally relating to threats against State officials.

BY adding to

Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments
Section 561A
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1987 Replacement Volume and 1988 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

561A.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) (I) "STATE OFFICIAL" MEANS A STATE OFFICIAL AS DEFINED IN ARTICLE 40A, § 1-201(GG) OF THE CODE.

(II) "STATE OFFICIAL" INCLUDES THE GOVERNOR, GOVERNOR-ELECT, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR-ELECT.

(3) "THREAT" INCLUDES:

(I) A VERBAL THREAT; OR

(II) A THREAT IN ANY WRITTEN FORM, WHETHER OR NOT THE WRITING IS SIGNED, OR IF IT IS SIGNED WHETHER OR NOT THE WRITING IS SIGNED WITH A FICTICIOUS NAME OR ANY OTHER MARK.

(B) A PERSON MAY NOT KNOWINGLY AND WILLFULLY MAKE A THREAT TO TAKE THE LIFE OF, KIDNAP, OR INFLICT BODILY HARM UPON A STATE OFFICIAL.