

CHAPTER 351

(House Bill 200)

AN ACT concerning

False Statements - Destructive Devices - Restitution

FOR the purpose of clarifying the scope of restitution available to certain governmental units for responding ~~to a false statement of a threat of a destructive device or toxic material or~~ to a representation of a destructive device that is manufactured, possessed, transported, or placed with a certain intent.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Criminal Law

Section 9-504 and 9-505

Annotated Code of Maryland

(As enacted by Chapter 26 (H.B. 11) of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2002)

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

Article - Criminal Law

9-504.

(a) This section does not apply to a statement made or rumor circulated by an officer, employee, or agent of a bona fide civilian defense organization or unit, if made in the regular course of the person's duties.

(b) A person may not circulate or transmit to another, with intent that it be acted on, a statement or rumor that the person knows to be false about the location or possible detonation of a destructive device or the location or possible release of toxic material, as those terms are defined in § 4-501 of this article.

(c) A person who violates this section is guilty of a felony and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 10 years or a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or both.

(d) A crime under this section committed using a telephone or other electronic means may be prosecuted:

- (1) in the county in which the communication originated; or
- (2) in the county in which the communication was received.

(e) (1) In addition to the penalty provided in subsection (c) of this section, a court may order a person convicted or found to have committed a delinquent act under this section to pay restitution to: