

Annotated Code of Maryland
(1987 Replacement Volume and 1991 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

194B.

(A) IN THIS SECTION "CABLE TELEVISION SERVICE" MEANS:

- (1) CABLE AND SATELLITE CABLE PROGRAMMING;
- (2) SERVICE PROVIDED BY OR THROUGH THE FACILITY OF A CABLE TELEVISION SYSTEM OR CLOSED CIRCUIT COAXIAL CABLE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM; OR
- (3) A MICROWAVE, SATELLITE, OR SIMILAR TRANSMISSION SERVICE USED WITH A CABLE TELEVISION SYSTEM OR CLOSED CIRCUIT COAXIAL CABLE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM.

[(a)](B) A person may not:

(1) DESTROY, DAMAGE, CUT, tamper with, install, tap, remove, displace, or make any connection with any wire, conduit, apparatus, or other equipment of a franchised cable television company or private cable television company with the intent to [obtain] RECEIVE cable television services without payment;

(2) PREVENT, OBSTRUCT, OR DELAY THE SENDING, CONVEYANCE, DISTRIBUTION, OR RECEIPT OF PROGRAMMING MATERIAL TRANSMITTED BY A FRANCHISED CABLE TELEVISION COMPANY OR A PRIVATE CABLE TELEVISION COMPANY;

(3) WITH THE INTENT TO DEPRIVE A COMPANY OF LAWFUL COMPENSATION FOR SERVICES PROVIDED, RECEIVE, ATTEMPT TO RECEIVE, OR ASSIST ANOTHER TO RECEIVE:

(I) CABLE TELEVISION SERVICE BY TRICK, USE OF A DECODER ~~OR ILLEGAL DEVICE~~, OR OTHER FRAUDULENT MEANS; OR

(II) SATELLITE CABLE PROGRAMMING:

1. THAT IS OFFERED FOR SALE IN THE PERSON'S AREA THROUGH AN UNAUTHORIZED MARKETING SYSTEM; OR

2. THAT IS RECEIVED BY DECODING ENCRYPTED SATELLITE CABLE PROGRAMMING;

(4) CONNECT WITH A CABLE, WIRE, COMPONENT, OR OTHER DEVICE USED FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF CABLE TELEVISION SERVICE WITHOUT AUTHORITY FROM THE CABLE TELEVISION COMPANY;