

Section 470A

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

470A.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) ~~“PUBLIC INSTITUTION” MEANS A PUBLIC PROPERTY OR~~
“INSTITUTION” MEANS A PUBLICLY OR PRIVATELY OWNED, LEASED, OR
USED BUILDING, INCLUDING:

- (I) A SCHOOL;
- (II) A LIBRARY;
- (III) A RECREATION CENTER;
- (IV) A MEETING HALL; OR
- (V) A CEMETERY.

(3) “Religious real property” includes:

- (i) A church, synagogue, or other place of worship;
- (ii) A cemetery;
- (iii) A religious school, educational facility, community center, structure, or other real property used for any religious purpose; and
- (iv) The grounds adjacent to the property described in items (i) through (iii) of this paragraph.

(b) A person may not:

- (1) Deface, damage, or destroy or attempt to deface, damage, or destroy religious real or personal property that is owned, leased, or used by a religious entity;
- (2) Obstruct, or attempt to obstruct by force or threat of force, a person in the free exercise of that person’s religious beliefs;
- (3) Harass or commit a crime upon a person or damage the real or personal property of [a]:
 - (I) A person because of that person’s race, color, religious beliefs, or national origin; or
 - (II) ~~A PUBLIC INSTITUTION~~ AN INSTITUTION: