

HOUSE BILL 540

E1
HB 562/09 – JUD

7lr1693
CF 7lr2832

By: **Delegates Kramer, Chang, Fennell, Fraser–Hidalgo, and Valderrama**
Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2017
Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Hate Crimes – Civil Remedy**

3 FOR the purpose of providing that a person who is aggrieved by a violation of certain hate
4 crime laws may bring a civil action against a certain person; authorizing the court to
5 impose an injunction and award certain damages; providing for the application of
6 this Act; and generally relating to the right to file a civil action for a hate crime.

7 BY adding to

8 Article – Criminal Law

9 Section 10–309

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Criminal Law**

15 **10–309.**

16 **(A) A PERSON WHO IS AGGRIEVED BY A VIOLATION OF THIS SUBTITLE MAY**
17 **BRING A CIVIL ACTION AGAINST THE PERSON OR PERSONS WHO COMMITTED THE**
18 **VIOLATION IN A COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION.**

19 **(B) THE COURT MAY:**

20 **(1) ISSUE AN INJUNCTION TO PREVENT OR RESTRAIN A VIOLATION OF**
21 **THIS SUBTITLE; AND**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(2) AWARD DAMAGES IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS**
2 **SECTION.**

3 **(C) (1) DAMAGES AWARDED BY A COURT UNDER THIS SECTION MAY**
4 **INCLUDE:**

5 **(I) ECONOMIC DAMAGES AND ANY OTHER PECUNIARY LOSS**
6 **SUSTAINED BY THE PLAINTIFF THAT WAS PROXIMATELY CAUSED BY THE VIOLATION**
7 **OF THIS SUBTITLE;**

8 **(II) NONECONOMIC DAMAGES, INCLUDING:**

9 **1. PAIN AND SUFFERING;**

10 **2. EMOTIONAL DISTRESS;**

11 **3. MENTAL ANGUISH;**

12 **4. LOSS OF ENJOYMENT;**

13 **5. LOSS OF COMPANIONSHIP, SERVICES, AND**
14 **CONSORTIUM; AND**

15 **6. OTHER NONPECUNIARY LOSS SUSTAINED BY THE**
16 **PLAINTIFF THAT WAS PROXIMATELY CAUSED BY THE VIOLATION OF THIS SUBTITLE;**
17 **AND**

18 **(III) PUNITIVE DAMAGES.**

19 **(2) THE COURT MAY ALSO AWARD REASONABLE ATTORNEY'S FEES TO**
20 **THE PREVAILING PARTY.**

21 **(D) THIS SECTION DOES NOT AFFECT ANY LEGAL OR EQUITABLE RIGHT OR**
22 **REMEDY OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY LAW.**

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be construed to
24 apply only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect on or
25 application to any cause of action arising before the effective date of this Act.

26 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
27 October 1, 2017.