

## Chapter 281

(House Bill 631)

AN ACT concerning

### Public Safety – Impersonating a Police Officer – WMATA Metro Transit Police

FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from falsely representing that the person is a member of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Metro Transit Police under certain circumstances; prohibiting a person from having, using, wearing, or displaying a certain identification or simulation or imitation of a certain identification of a member of the WMATA Metro Transit Police except under certain circumstances; authorizing a person to have a certain identification with the appropriate authority of the WMATA Metro Transit Police; altering a certain definition; and generally relating to impersonating a member of the WMATA Metro Transit Police.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Public Safety

Section 3–502

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2011 Replacement Volume)

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

#### Article – Public Safety

3–502.

(a) In this section, “police officer” means a member of:

- (1) a police force of this State or another state;
- (2) a police force of a county or municipal corporation of this State or another state;
- (3) the United States Secret Service Uniformed Division;
- (4) the United States Park Police;

**(5) THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY (WMATA) METRO TRANSIT POLICE;**

**[(5)] (6)** the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

**[(6)] (7)** the Drug Enforcement Administration; or

**[(7)] (8)** a division of a federal agency the primary duties of which are the investigation, apprehension, or detention of individuals suspected or convicted of federal crimes.

(b) A person may not, with fraudulent design on person or property, falsely represent that the person is a police officer, special police officer, sheriff, deputy sheriff, or constable.

(c) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, a person may not have, use, wear, or display a uniform, shield, button, ornament, badge, identification, or shoulder patch adopted by the Department of State Police to be worn by its members, insignia, or emblem of office, as is worn by a police officer, sheriff, deputy sheriff, or constable.

(d) A person may not, for the purpose of deception, have a simulation or imitation of an article described in subsection (c) of this section as is worn by a police officer, sheriff, deputy sheriff, or constable.

(e) A person may have, use, wear, or display an article described in subsection (c) of this section with the appropriate authority of:

(1) the Secretary of State Police;

(2) a police force of another state;

(3) the Police Commissioner of Baltimore City;

(4) the chief of police of a county or municipal corporation of this State or another state;

(5) a sheriff or deputy sheriff;

(6) a constable;

(7) the United States Secret Service Uniformed Division;

(8) the United States Park Police;

**(9) THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY (WMATA) METRO TRANSIT POLICE;**

**[(9)] (10)** the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

**[(10)] (11)** the Drug Enforcement Administration; or

**[(11)] (12)** a division of a federal agency the primary duties of which are the investigation, apprehension, or detention of individuals suspected or convicted of federal crimes.

(f) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 2 years or a fine not exceeding \$2,000 or both.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2012.

**Approved by the Governor, May 2, 2012.**