

HOUSE BILL 65

E1

4lr0397

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Delegate Tarrant**

Requested: August 13, 2013

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2014

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Law – Harassment – Penalties and Prohibition Applied to**
3 **Neighborhood Watch**

4 FOR the purpose of increasing the penalty for a first and second or subsequent
5 violation of the prohibition against harassment; clarifying that the prohibition
6 against harassing another person applies to a member of a neighborhood watch
7 organization; and generally relating to harassment.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Criminal Law
10 Section 3–803
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Criminal Law**

16 3–803.

17 (a) A person, **INCLUDING A MEMBER OF A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH**
18 **ORGANIZATION**, may not follow another in or about a public place or maliciously
19 engage in a course of conduct that alarms or seriously annoys the other:

20 (1) with the intent to harass, alarm, or annoy the other;

21 (2) after receiving a reasonable warning or request to stop by or on
22 behalf of the other; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (3) without a legal purpose.

2 (b) This section does not apply to a peaceable activity intended to express a
3 political view or provide information to others.

4 (c) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on
5 conviction is subject to:

6 (1) for a first offense, imprisonment not exceeding **[90] 180** days or a
7 fine not exceeding \$500 or both; and

8 (2) for a second or subsequent offense, imprisonment not exceeding
9 **[180 days] 1 YEAR** or a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or both.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
11 October 1, 2014.