

SENATE BILL 177

E1, E4
SB 755/23 – JPR

(PRE-FILED)

4r0671
CF 4r0670

By: **Senator Muse**

Requested: September 21, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Law Enforcement Officers, Correctional Employees, and Court-Ordered**
3 **Services Providers – Prohibition on Sexual Activity – Penalties and Registry**

4 FOR the purpose of altering penalties relating to sexual contact between a law enforcement
5 officer, correctional employee, or court-ordered services provider and certain
6 individuals under certain circumstances; requiring a person convicted of a certain
7 offense to register on a certain sex offender registry; and generally relating to sexual
8 offenses.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Criminal Law
11 Section 3–314
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Article – Criminal Procedure
16 Section 11–701(o)(1)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
20 Article – Criminal Procedure
21 Section 11–704(a)
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **Article – Criminal Law**

2 3–314.

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

4 (2) (i) “Correctional employee” means a:

5 1. correctional officer, as defined in § 8–201 of the
6 Correctional Services Article; or7 2. managing official or deputy managing official of a
8 correctional facility.9 (ii) “Correctional employee” includes a sheriff, warden, or other
10 official who is appointed or employed to supervise a correctional facility.11 (3) “Court–ordered services provider” means a person who provides
12 services to an individual who has been ordered by the court, the Division of Parole and
13 Probation, or the Department of Juvenile Services to obtain those services.

14 (4) (i) “Inmate” has the meaning stated in § 1–101 of this article.

15 (ii) “Inmate” includes an individual confined in a community adult
16 rehabilitation center.17 (5) “Law enforcement officer” has the meaning stated in § 1–101 of the
18 Public Safety Article.

19 (b) (1) This subsection applies to:

20 (i) a correctional employee;

21 (ii) any other employee of the Department of Public Safety and
22 Correctional Services or a correctional facility;23 (iii) an employee of a contractor providing goods or services to the
24 Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services or a correctional facility; and25 (iv) any other individual working in a correctional facility, whether
26 on a paid or volunteer basis.27 (2) A person described in paragraph (1) of this subsection may not engage
28 in sexual contact, vaginal intercourse, or a sexual act with an inmate.29 (c) A person may not engage in sexual contact, vaginal intercourse, or a sexual
30 act with an individual confined in a child care institution licensed by the Department of

1 Juvenile Services, a detention center for juveniles, or a facility for juveniles listed in §
2 9–226(b) of the Human Services Article.

3 (d) A court–ordered services provider may not engage in sexual contact, vaginal
4 intercourse, or a sexual act with an individual ordered to obtain services while the order is
5 in effect.

6 (e) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a law
7 enforcement officer may not engage in sexual contact, vaginal intercourse, or a sexual act
8 with a person:

9 (i) who is a victim, witness, or suspect in an open investigation that
10 the law enforcement officer is conducting, supervising, or assisting with if the law
11 enforcement officer knew or should have known that the person is a victim, witness, or
12 suspect in the investigation;

13 (ii) requesting assistance from or responding to the law enforcement
14 officer in the course of the law enforcement officer’s official duties; or

15 (iii) in the custody of the law enforcement officer.

16 (2) Paragraph (1)(i) and (ii) of this subsection does not apply if the law
17 enforcement officer:

18 (i) had a prior existing legal sexual relationship with the person;
19 and

20 (ii) did not act under the color or pretense of office or under color of
21 official right when seeking consent to the vaginal intercourse, sexual act, or sexual contact.

22 (f) A person who violates this section is guilty of a [misdemeanor] **FELONY** and
23 on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding [3] **10** years or a fine not exceeding
24 \$3,000 or both.

25 (g) A sentence imposed for a violation of this section may be separate from and
26 consecutive to or concurrent with a sentence for another crime under § 3–303, § 3–304, or
27 §§ 3–307 through 3–310 of this subtitle, or § 3–305, § 3–306, § 3–311, or § 3–312 of this
28 subtitle as the sections existed before October 1, 2017.

29 Article – Criminal Procedure

30 11–701.

31 (o) “Tier I sex offender” means a person who has been convicted of:

32 (1) conspiring to commit, attempting to commit, or committing a violation
33 of § 3–308 **OR § 3–314** of the Criminal Law Article;

1 11-704.

2 (a) A person shall register with the person's supervising authority if the person
3 is:

4 (1) a tier I sex offender;

5 (2) a tier II sex offender;

6 (3) a tier III sex offender; or

7 (4) a sex offender who is required to register by another jurisdiction, a
8 federal, military, or tribal court, or a foreign government, and who is not a resident of this
9 State, and who enters this State:

10 (i) to begin residing or to habitually live;

11 (ii) to carry on employment;

12 (iii) to attend a public or private educational institution, including a
13 secondary school, trade or professional institution, or institution of higher education, as a
14 full-time or part-time student; or

15 (iv) as a transient.

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
17 October 1, 2024.