

HOUSE BILL 631

E4

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CF SB 650

By: **Delegates Wilson, Anderson, Arora, Bohanan, Clippinger, Conaway, DeBoy, Fisher, Haynes, Holmes, Jameson, Oaks, S. Robinson, Tarrant, V. Turner, Valentino-Smith, Vallario, Vaughn, Washington, and Wood**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2012

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Safety – Impersonating a Police Officer – WMATA Metro Transit**
3 **Police**

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

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

14 Article – Public Safety
15 Section 3–502
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2011 Replacement Volume)

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

20 **Article – Public Safety**

21 3–502.

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

23 (1) a police force of this State or another state;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2) a police force of a county or municipal corporation of this State or
2 another state;

3 (3) the United States Secret Service Uniformed Division;

4 (4) the United States Park Police;

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

7 **[(5)] (6)** the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

8 **[(6)] (7)** the Drug Enforcement Administration; or

9 **[(7)] (8)** a division of a federal agency the primary duties of which
10 are the investigation, apprehension, or detention of individuals suspected or convicted
11 of federal crimes.

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

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

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

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

25 (1) the Secretary of State Police;

26 (2) a police force of another state;

27 (3) the Police Commissioner of Baltimore City;

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

30 (5) a sheriff or deputy sheriff;

1 (6) a constable;

2 (7) the United States Secret Service Uniformed Division;

3 (8) the United States Park Police;

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

6 ~~[(9)]~~ **(10)** the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

7 ~~[(10)]~~ **(11)** the Drug Enforcement Administration; or

8 ~~[(11)]~~ **(12)** a division of a federal agency the primary duties of which
9 are the investigation, apprehension, or detention of individuals suspected or convicted
10 of federal crimes.

11 (f) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on
12 conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 2 years or a fine not exceeding
13 \$2,000 or both.

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