

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2013 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 719
Judiciary

(Delegate McDermott, *et al.*)

Judicial Proceedings

**Criminal Law - False Statement Concerning Destructive Device or Toxic Material
- Venue**

This bill authorizes a person to be prosecuted for making a false statement concerning a destructive device or toxic material using a telephone or other electronic means in the county in which the destructive device or toxic material was stated or was rumored to be located.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is procedural/technical and does not materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: The bill is procedural/technical and does not materially affect State finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A person is prohibited from circulating or transmitting to another, with intent that it be acted on, a statement or rumor that the person knows to be false about the location or possible detonation of a destructive device or the location or possible release of toxic material. A violator is guilty of a felony, punishable by imprisonment for up to 10 years and/or a \$10,000 maximum fine. Violators may also be required to pay restitution. If the offense was committed by a minor, the minor's driving privileges may be suspended.

The prohibition does not apply to a statement made or rumor circulated by an officer, employee, or agent of a bona fide civilian defense organization or unit, if made in the regular course of the person's duties.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts), State's Attorneys' Association, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 15, 2013
mlm/kdm

Analysis by: Amy A. Devadas

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510