

# HOUSE BILL 488

E1, E2

01r0603  
CF SB 554

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By: **Delegates Palakovich Carr, Moon, Acevero, Attar, Bartlett, Barve, Bridges, Cardin, Carr, Charkoudian, Cullison, D.M. Davis, Feldmark, Fraser-Hidalgo, Guyton, Kerr, R. Lewis, Lopez, Love, Mosby, Pena-Melnyk, Qi, Queen, Reznik, Shetty, Smith, Stewart, Terrasa, C. Watson, ~~and Wilkins~~ Wilkins, Anderson, Atterbeary, Cox, W. Fisher, and Williams**

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2020

Assigned to: Judiciary

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 7, 2020

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Crimes – Mitigation – Race, Color, National Origin, Sex, Gender Identity, or**  
3 **Sexual Orientation**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing that a certain discovery or perception of, or belief about,  
5 another person's race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity, or sexual  
6 orientation does not constitute certain provocation to mitigate a killing from the  
7 crime of murder to manslaughter; establishing that a certain discovery or perception  
8 of, or belief about, another person's race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity,  
9 or sexual orientation does not constitute certain provocation to mitigate an assault  
10 from the crime of assault in the first degree to assault in the second degree or another  
11 lesser crime; and generally relating to homicide and assault.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Article – Criminal Law  
14 Section 2–207 and 3–209  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

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### EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 **Article – Criminal Law**

2 2–207.

3 (a) A person who commits manslaughter is guilty of a felony and on conviction is  
4 subject to:

5 (1) imprisonment not exceeding 10 years; or

6 (2) imprisonment in a local correctional facility not exceeding 2 years or a  
7 fine not exceeding \$500 or both.8 (b) The discovery of one's spouse engaged in sexual intercourse with another does  
9 not constitute legally adequate provocation for the purpose of mitigating a killing from the  
10 crime of murder to voluntary manslaughter even though the killing was provoked by that  
11 discovery.12 **(C) THE DISCOVERY OR PERCEPTION OF, OR BELIEF ABOUT, ANOTHER**  
13 **PERSON'S RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEX, GENDER IDENTITY, OR SEXUAL**  
14 **ORIENTATION, WHETHER OR NOT ACCURATE, DOES NOT CONSTITUTE LEGALLY**  
15 **ADEQUATE PROVOCATION TO MITIGATE A KILLING FROM THE CRIME OF MURDER TO**  
16 **MANSLAUGHTER.**

17 3–209.

18 **(A) [A] SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION,** A person charged with  
19 a crime under § 3–202, § 3–203, § 3–204, or § 3–205 of this subtitle may assert any judicially  
20 recognized defense.21 **(B) THE DISCOVERY OR PERCEPTION OF, OR BELIEF ABOUT, ANOTHER**  
22 **PERSON'S RACE, COLOR, NATIONAL ORIGIN, SEX, GENDER IDENTITY, OR SEXUAL**  
23 **ORIENTATION, WHETHER OR NOT ACCURATE, DOES NOT CONSTITUTE LEGALLY**  
24 **ADEQUATE PROVOCATION TO MITIGATE AN ASSAULT FROM THE CRIME OF ASSAULT**  
25 **IN THE FIRST DEGREE TO ASSAULT IN THE SECOND DEGREE OR ANOTHER LESSER**  
26 **CRIME.**27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
28 October 1, 2020.