

SENATE BILL 745

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By: **Senator Hough**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2020

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Organizations – Penalties, Procedure, and Elements**

3 FOR the purpose of replacing the term “gang” as it pertains to certain prohibitions against
4 participation in a criminal gang with the term “organization”; requiring certain local
5 jurisdictions to use certain divested assets for certain purposes under certain
6 circumstances; providing that in a certain prosecution, a defendant may be found to
7 have been a member of or belonged to a criminal organization only under certain
8 circumstances; requiring the Attorney General, in consultation with the Maryland
9 State’s Attorneys’ Association, to develop a certain plan; requiring the Attorney
10 General to submit a certain report to the Governor and the General Assembly on or
11 before a certain date; altering certain definitions; making conforming changes; and
12 generally relating to criminal organizations.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article – Correctional Services
15 Section 6–112(b)(4)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

18 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
19 Article – Criminal Law
20 Section 9–801, 9–802, 9–803(a), 9–804, 9–805(a), and 9–807(2) to be under the
21 amended subtitle “Subtitle 8. Criminal Organizations”
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

24 BY adding to
25 Article – Criminal Law
26 Section 9–808
27 Annotated Code of Maryland
28 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
2 Article – Education
3 Section 7–303(a)(2)
4 Annotated Code of Maryland
5 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article – Real Property
8 Section 14–125.2(a)(3)(iv)
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

13 **Article – Correctional Services**

14 6–112.

15 (b) (4) If the defendant has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor that is
16 related to the defendant’s membership in a criminal [gang] ORGANIZATION, as defined in
17 § 9–801 of the Criminal Law Article, the report may include information regarding the
18 group affiliation of the defendant.

19 **Article – Criminal Law**

20 Subtitle 8. Criminal [Gang Offenses] ORGANIZATIONS.

21 9–801.

22 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

23 (b) “Coerce” means to compel or attempt to compel another by threat of harm or
24 other adverse consequences.

25 (c) “Criminal [gang] means a group or association of three or more persons]
26 ORGANIZATION” MEANS AN ENTERPRISE whose members:

27 (1) individually or collectively engage in a pattern of [criminal gang]
28 ORGANIZED CRIME activity;

29 (2) have as one of their primary objectives or activities the
30 commission of one or more underlying crimes, including acts by juveniles that would be
31 underlying crimes if committed by adults; and

1 (3) have in common an overt or covert organizational or command
2 structure.

3 (d) “Enterprise” includes:

4 (1) a sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, business trust, or other
5 legal entity; or

6 (2) any group of individuals associated in fact although not a legal entity.

7 (e) “Pattern of [criminal gang] **ORGANIZED CRIME** activity” means the
8 commission of, attempted commission of, conspiracy to commit, or solicitation of two or
9 more underlying crimes or acts by a juvenile that would be an underlying crime if
10 committed by an adult, provided the crimes or acts were not part of the same incident.

11 (f) “Solicit” has the meaning stated in § 11–301 of this article.

12 (g) “Underlying crime” means:

13 (1) a crime of violence as defined under § 14–101 of this article;

14 (2) a violation of § 3–203 (second degree assault), § 3–1102 (sex trafficking),
15 § 3–1103 (forced marriage), § 4–203 (wearing, carrying, or transporting a handgun), §
16 **7–113 (EMBEZZLEMENT BY FIDUCIARY), § 7–315 (THEFT –**
17 **TELECOMMUNICATIONS–RELATED), § 9–102 (SUBORNATION OF PERJURY), §**
18 **9–202(A) (BRIBERY OF JUROR), § 9–302 (inducing false testimony or avoidance of**
19 **subpoena), § 9–303 (retaliation for testimony), § 9–305 (intimidating or corrupting juror), §**
20 **9–306 (OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE), § 9–307 (DESTRUCTION OF EVIDENCE), § 9–413**
21 **(CONTRABAND – FOR ESCAPE), § 9–416 (CONTRABAND – CONTROLLED DANGEROUS**
22 **SUBSTANCE), § 9–417 (CONTRABAND – TELECOMMUNICATIONS–RELATED), § 11–304**
23 **(receiving earnings of prostitute), [or] § 11–307 (house of prostitution), OR § 12–104**
24 **(GAMING OFFENSES),** of this article;

25 (3) a felony violation of § 3–701 (extortion), § 4–503 (manufacture or
26 possession of destructive device), § 5–602 (distribution of CDS), § 5–603 (manufacturing
27 CDS or equipment), § 5–604(b) (creating or possessing a counterfeit substance), § 5–606
28 (false prescription), § 6–103 (second degree arson), § 6–202 (first degree burglary), § 6–203
29 (second degree burglary), § 6–204 (third degree burglary), § 7–104 (theft), or § 7–105
30 (unauthorized use of a motor vehicle) of this article; [or]

31 (4) a felony violation of § 5–133 of the Public Safety Article;

32 **(5) A CRIME UNDER THE LAWS OF ANOTHER STATE OR OF THE**
33 **UNITED STATES THAT WOULD BE A CRIME LISTED IN ITEMS (1) THROUGH (4) OF**
34 **THIS SUBSECTION IF COMMITTED IN THIS STATE; OR**

1 **(6) THE ATTEMPTED COMMISSION OF, CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT, OR**
2 **SOLICITATION OF A CRIME OR ACT LISTED IN ITEMS (1) THROUGH (5) OF THIS**
3 **SUBSECTION.**

4 9–802.

5 (a) A person may not threaten an individual, or a friend or family member of an
6 individual, with physical violence with the intent to coerce, induce, or solicit the individual
7 to participate in or prevent the individual from leaving a criminal **[gang] ORGANIZATION.**

8 (b) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction
9 is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 2 years or a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or both.

10 9–803.

11 (a) A person may not threaten an individual, or a friend or family member of an
12 individual, with or use physical violence to coerce, induce, or solicit the individual to
13 participate in or prevent the individual from leaving a criminal **[gang] ORGANIZATION:**

14 (1) in a school vehicle, as defined under § 11–154 of the Transportation
15 Article; or

16 (2) in, on, or within 1,000 feet of real property owned by or leased to an
17 elementary school, secondary school, or county board of education and used for elementary
18 or secondary education.

19 9–804.

20 (a) A person may not:

21 (1) participate in a criminal **[gang] ORGANIZATION** knowing that the
22 members of the **[gang] CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION** engage in a pattern of **[criminal gang]**
23 **ORGANIZED CRIME** activity; and

24 (2) knowingly and willfully direct or participate in an underlying crime, or
25 act by a juvenile that would be an underlying crime if committed by an adult, committed
26 for the benefit of, at the direction of, or in association with a criminal **[gang]**
27 **ORGANIZATION.**

28 (b) A criminal **[gang] ORGANIZATION** or an individual belonging to a criminal
29 **[gang] ORGANIZATION** may not:

30 (1) receive proceeds known to have been derived directly or indirectly from
31 an underlying crime; and

1 (2) use or invest, directly or indirectly, an aggregate of \$10,000 or more of
2 the proceeds from an underlying crime in:

3 (i) the acquisition of a title to, right to, interest in, or equity in real
4 property; or

5 (ii) the establishment or operation of any enterprise.

6 (c) A criminal [gang] **ORGANIZATION** may not acquire or maintain, directly or
7 indirectly, any interest in or control of any enterprise or real property through an
8 underlying crime.

9 (d) A person may not conspire to violate subsection (a), (b), or (c) of this section.

10 (e) A person may not violate subsection (a) of this section that results in the death
11 of a victim.

12 (f) (1) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, a
13 person who violates this section is guilty of a felony and on conviction is subject to
14 imprisonment not exceeding 15 years or a fine not exceeding \$1,000,000 or both.

15 (ii) A person who violates subsection (e) of this section is guilty of a
16 felony and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 25 years or a fine not
17 exceeding \$5,000,000 or both.

18 (2) (i) A sentence imposed under paragraph (1)(i) of this subsection for
19 a first offense may be separate from and consecutive to or concurrent with a sentence for
20 any crime based on the act establishing a violation of this section.

21 (ii) A sentence imposed under paragraph (1)(i) of this subsection for
22 a second or subsequent offense, or paragraph (1)(ii) of this subsection shall be separate from
23 and consecutive to a sentence for any crime based on the act establishing a violation of this
24 section.

25 (iii) A consecutive sentence for a second or subsequent offense shall
26 not be mandatory unless the State notifies the person in writing of the State's intention to
27 proceed against the person as a second or subsequent offender at least 30 days before trial.

28 (3) In addition to the other penalties provided in this subsection, on
29 conviction the court may:

30 (i) order a person or criminal [gang] **ORGANIZATION** to be divested
31 of any interest in an enterprise or real property;

32 (ii) order the dissolution or reorganization of an enterprise; and

33 (iii) order the suspension or revocation of any license, permit, or prior

1 approval granted to the enterprise or person by a unit of the State or a political subdivision
2 of the State.

3 (g) (1) This subsection applies to a violation of § 5–602, § 5–603, § 5–604(b), §
4 5–606, § 5–612, § 5–613, § 5–614, or § 5–617 of this article.

5 (2) Assets divested under this section and derived from the commission of,
6 attempted commission of, conspiracy to commit, or solicitation of a crime described in
7 paragraph (1) of this subsection, either in whole or in part:

8 (I) IF THE STATE INVESTIGATED AND PROSECUTED A
9 VIOLATION DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, shall be deposited in
10 the Addiction Treatment Divestiture Fund established under § 8–6D–01 of the
11 Health – General Article; OR

12 (II) IF A LOCAL JURISDICTION INVESTIGATED AND
13 PROSECUTED A VIOLATION DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION,
14 SHALL BE USED BY THE LOCAL JURISDICTION:

15 1. TO SUPPORT ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION,
16 REENTRY PROGRAMS, AND ADDICTION TREATMENT SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH
17 SUBSTANCE–RELATED DISORDERS;

18 2. TO COMBAT CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS THROUGH
19 EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND RESOURCES; OR

20 3. TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF CRIMINAL
21 ORGANIZATION–RELATED CRIMES; AND

22 (III) IF MORE THAN ONE JURISDICTION PARTICIPATED IN AN
23 INVESTIGATION OR A PROSECUTION OF A VIOLATION DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (1)
24 OF THIS SUBSECTION, SHALL BE DIVIDED IN THE MANNER AGREED ON BY THE
25 JURISDICTIONS AND USED AS PROVIDED IN ITEM (I) OR (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH.

26 (h) A person may be charged with a violation of this section only by indictment,
27 criminal information, or petition alleging a delinquent act.

28 (i) (1) The Attorney General, at the request of the Governor or the State’s
29 Attorney for a county in which a violation or an act establishing a violation of this section
30 occurs, may:

31 (i) aid in the investigation of the violation or act; and

32 (ii) prosecute the violation or act.

1 (2) In exercising authority under paragraph (1) of this subsection, the
2 Attorney General has all the powers and duties of a State's Attorney, including the use of
3 the grand jury in the county, to prosecute the violation.

4 (3) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in circumstances in which
5 violations of this section are alleged to have been committed in more than one county, the
6 respective State's Attorney of each county, or the Attorney General, may join the causes of
7 action in a single complaint with the consent of each State's Attorney having jurisdiction
8 over an offense sought to be joined.

9 (j) Notwithstanding any other provision of law and provided at least one criminal
10 **[gang] ORGANIZATION** activity of a criminal **[gang] ORGANIZATION** allegedly occurred in
11 the county in which a grand jury is sitting, the grand jury may issue subpoenas, summon
12 witnesses, and otherwise conduct an investigation of the alleged criminal **[gang's]**
13 **ORGANIZATION'S** activities and offenses in other counties.

14 9-805.

15 (a) A person may not organize, supervise, promote, sponsor, finance, or manage a
16 criminal **[gang] ORGANIZATION**.

17 9-807.

18 For purposes of venue, any violation of this subtitle is considered to have been
19 committed in any county:

20 (2) that is the principal place of the operations of the criminal **[gang]**
21 **ORGANIZATION** in the State;

22 **9-808.**

23 **IN A PROSECUTION UNDER THIS SUBTITLE, A DEFENDANT MAY BE FOUND TO**
24 **HAVE BEEN A MEMBER OF OR BELONGED TO A CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION ONLY IF**
25 **THE COURT OR JURY FINDS BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT THAT THE DEFENDANT:**

26 **(1) WAS CONNECTED OR ASSOCIATED WITH THE CRIMINAL**
27 **ORGANIZATION IN A MEANINGFUL WAY;**

28 **(2) KNEW OF THE CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION'S EXISTENCE; AND**

29 **(3) HAD AT LEAST A GENERAL UNDERSTANDING OF THE NATURE OF**
30 **THE CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION'S ACTIVITIES.**

1 7–303.

2 (a) (2) “Criminal [gang] ORGANIZATION” has the meaning stated in § 9–801
3 of the Criminal Law Article.

4 **Article – Real Property**

5 14–125.2.

6 (a) (3) “Nuisance” means:

7 (iv) A property where the tenant, owner, or other occupant has been
8 convicted of violations of any criminal law occurring on, in, or in relation to the property
9 and is related to the activities of a criminal [gang] ORGANIZATION as defined in § 9–801
10 of the Criminal Law Article; or

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Attorney General, in
12 consultation with the Maryland State’s Attorneys’ Association, shall develop a plan for a
13 formal process for oversight of prosecutions of offenses involving criminal organizations
14 under Title 9, Subtitle 8 of the Criminal Law Article. On or before December 31, 2020, the
15 Attorney General shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State
16 Government Article, the General Assembly on the plan developed under this section.

17 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
18 October 1, 2020.