

# SENATE BILL 43

E4

(PRE-FILED)

11r0781  
CF HB 411

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By: **Senators Elfreth and Hettleman**

Requested: September 29, 2020

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2021

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Law – Law Enforcement Officers – Prohibition on Sexual Activity**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a law enforcement officer from engaging in certain sexual  
4 acts, sexual contact, or vaginal intercourse with a certain victim, witness, or suspect  
5 under certain circumstances or with a certain person requesting assistance from or  
6 responding to the law enforcement officer under certain circumstances; establishing  
7 a certain exception to the prohibition; and generally relating to law enforcement  
8 officers.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
10 Article – Criminal Law  
11 Section 3–314  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Criminal Law**

17 3–314.

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

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

20 1. correctional officer, as defined in § 8–201 of the  
21 Correctional Services Article; or

22 2. managing official or deputy managing official of a

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 correctional facility.

2 (ii) "Correctional employee" includes a sheriff, warden, or other  
3 official who is appointed or employed to supervise a correctional facility.

4 (3) "Court-ordered services provider" means a person who provides  
5 services to an individual who has been ordered by the court, the Division of Parole and  
6 Probation, or the Department of Juvenile Services to obtain those services.

7 (4) (i) "Inmate" has the meaning stated in § 1-101 of this article.

8 (ii) "Inmate" includes an individual confined in a community adult  
9 rehabilitation center.

10 (5) "Law enforcement officer" has the meaning stated in § 3-101 of the  
11 Public Safety Article.

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

13 (i) a correctional employee;

14 (ii) any other employee of the Department of Public Safety and  
15 Correctional Services or a correctional facility;

16 (iii) an employee of a contractor providing goods or services to the  
17 Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services or a correctional facility; and

18 (iv) any other individual working in a correctional facility, whether  
19 on a paid or volunteer basis.

20 (2) A person described in paragraph (1) of this subsection may not engage  
21 in sexual contact, vaginal intercourse, or a sexual act with an inmate.

22 (c) A person may not engage in sexual contact, vaginal intercourse, or a sexual  
23 act with an individual confined in a child care institution licensed by the Department of  
24 Juvenile Services, a detention center for juveniles, or a facility for juveniles listed in §  
25 9-226(b) of the Human Services Article.

26 (d) A court-ordered services provider may not engage in sexual contact, vaginal  
27 intercourse, or a sexual act with an individual ordered to obtain services while the order is  
28 in effect.

29 (e) **(1) [A] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS**  
30 **SUBSECTION, A law enforcement officer may not engage in sexual contact, vaginal**  
31 **intercourse, or a sexual act with [a person in the custody of the law enforcement officer]:**

32 **(I) A VICTIM, WITNESS, OR SUSPECT IN AN INVESTIGATION**

1 DURING THE COURSE OF AN INVESTIGATION THAT THE LAW ENFORCEMENT  
2 OFFICER IS CONDUCTING, SUPERVISING, OR ASSISTING WITH;

3 (II) A PERSON REQUESTING ASSISTANCE FROM OR RESPONDING  
4 TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER IN THE COURSE OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT  
5 OFFICER'S OFFICIAL DUTIES; OR

6 (III) A PERSON IN THE CUSTODY OF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT  
7 OFFICER.

8 (2) PARAGRAPH (1)(I) AND (II) OF THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT  
9 APPLY IF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER HAD A PRIOR EXISTING LEGAL SEXUAL  
10 RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PERSON, UNLESS AN INTERIM, TEMPORARY, OR FINAL  
11 PROTECTIVE ORDER BETWEEN THE PARTIES IS IN EFFECT AT THE TIME OF THE  
12 SEXUAL CONTACT, VAGINAL INTERCOURSE, OR SEXUAL ACT.

13 (f) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction  
14 is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 3 years or a fine not exceeding \$3,000 or both.

15 (g) A sentence imposed for a violation of this section may be separate from and  
16 consecutive to or concurrent with a sentence for another crime under § 3-303, § 3-304, or  
17 §§ 3-307 through 3-310 of this subtitle, or § 3-305, § 3-306, § 3-311, or § 3-312 of this  
18 subtitle as the sections existed before October 1, 2017.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
20 October 1, 2021.