



## Maryland State's Attorneys' Association

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**DATE:** January 19, 2021

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 306

**POSITION:** Support

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "CW", enclosed in a simple oval outline.

The Maryland State's Attorney's Association (MSAA) supports HB 306.

HB 306 incorporates conduct involving the generation of a false statement to a law enforcement officer into hate crime harassment prohibitions under Criminal Law, § 10-304. This legislation further links the definition of "false statement" to language integrated in Criminal Law, § 9-501, which is the general criminal act of a false statement to a law enforcement officer.

The act of causing a law enforcement agency to take action or conduct an investigation on a false complaint motivated by bigotry, bias or hate is reprehensible and immoral. Such an act serves no other purpose than to perpetuate racist stereotypes and sow division between law enforcement and the community. It is also a monumental waste of resources to an already overburdened public safety community. This legislation is a welcome and needed clarification to the hate crimes criminal statutory structure.

For these reasons the MSAA requests a favorable report on HB 306.