

HOUSE BILL 764

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By: **Delegates Williams, Acevero, Atterbeary, Bartlett, Boyce, Crutchfield, Feldmark, W. Fisher, Grammer, Healey, Ivey, Kelly, Korman, Lierman, Lopez, Moon, Mosby, Pena–Melnyk, Pippy, Reznik, Shetty, Stewart, Terrasa, Valentino–Smith, and Washington**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2020

Assigned to: Judiciary

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 2019 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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 2. managing official or deputy managing official of a
2 correctional facility.

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

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

8 (4) (i) “Inmate” has the meaning stated in § 1-101 of this article.

9 (ii) “Inmate” includes an individual confined in a community adult
10 rehabilitation center.

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

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

14 (i) a correctional employee;

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

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

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

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

23 (c) A person may not engage in sexual contact, vaginal intercourse, or a sexual
24 act with an individual confined in a child care institution licensed by the Department of
25 Juvenile Services, a detention center for juveniles, or a facility for juveniles listed in §
26 9-226(b) of the Human Services Article.

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

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

1 **(I) A VICTIM, WITNESS, OR SUSPECT IN AN INVESTIGATION**
2 **DURING THE COURSE OF AN INVESTIGATION THAT THE LAW ENFORCEMENT**
3 **OFFICER IS CONDUCTING, SUPERVISING, OR ASSISTING WITH;**

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

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

9 **(2) PARAGRAPH (1)(I) AND (II) OF THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT**
10 **APPLY IF THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER HAD A PRIOR EXISTING LEGAL SEXUAL**
11 **RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PERSON.**

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

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

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
19 October 1, 2020.