

# HOUSE BILL 68

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CF SB 6

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By: **Delegates Simonaire, Aumann, Beidle, Beitzel, Buckel, Carey, Chang, Ciliberti, Hill, S. Howard, Kaiser, Kipke, Kittleman, Krebs, McConkey, O'Donnell, Patterson, Rose, Saab, and Shoemaker**

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2016

Assigned to: Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Law – Impersonating a Military Member – Penalties**  
3 **(Stolen Valor Act of 2016)**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from misrepresenting oneself as a certain military  
5 member or falsely holding oneself out to be a recipient of a certain military decoration  
6 or medal; establishing certain penalties; and generally relating to impersonating a  
7 military member.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Criminal Law

10 Section 8–906

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Criminal Law**

16 **8–906.**

17 **(A) A PERSON MAY NOT KNOWINGLY AND WITH THE INTENT TO OBTAIN**  
18 **MONEY, PROPERTY, OR OTHER TANGIBLE BENEFIT:**

19 **(1) MISREPRESENT ONESELF AS A MEMBER OR VETERAN OF THE**  
20 **UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES OR AN ORGANIZED MILITIA; OR**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(2) FALSELY HOLD ONESELF OUT TO BE A RECIPIENT OF ANY**  
2 **DECORATION OR MEDAL CREATED BY FEDERAL OR STATE LAWS OR REGULATIONS**  
3 **TO HONOR THE MEMBERS OR VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES**  
4 **OR AN ORGANIZED MILITIA, INCLUDING:**

5                   **(I) A CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR;**

6                   **(II) A DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS;**

7                   **(III) A NAVY CROSS;**

8                   **(IV) AN AIR FORCE CROSS;**

9                   **(V) A SILVER STAR;**

10                  **(VI) A BRONZE STAR;**

11                  **(VII) A PURPLE HEART;**

12                  **(VIII) A COMBAT INFANTRYMAN'S BADGE;**

13                  **(IX) A COMBAT ACTION BADGE;**

14                  **(X) A COMBAT MEDICAL BADGE;**

15                  **(XI) A COMBAT ACTION RIBBON;**

16                  **(XII) A COMBAT ACTION MEDAL;**

17                  **(XIII) A SPECIAL OPERATIONS IDENTIFIER; OR**

18                  **(XIV) A SPECIAL QUALIFICATION OR SKILL IDENTIFIER.**

19           **(B) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR**  
20 **AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 1 YEAR OR A**  
21 **FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$2,500 OR BOTH.**

22           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
23 October 1, 2016.