

199 in lieu thereof, to stand in the place of the Section 199 repealed, and to change the subheading "Fraud—Debtors" to be "Fraud—Use of Simulated Court Process," to revise the laws prohibiting the use, sale, sending or delivering of simulated summons, complaints or court process or of documents implying association with any governmental department or agency for the purpose of inducing payment of a debt, and prohibiting the use of any seal, insignia or other format simulating that of a governmental department or agency for the same purpose, providing for the scope and limitations of this Act, for proof of the offense, and providing penalties for violations.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Section 199 of Article 27 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition), title and subtitle "Crimes and Punishments," subheading "Fraud—Debtors," be and it is hereby repealed, and that new Section 199 be and it is hereby enacted in lieu thereof to stand in the place of the section so repealed, and to be under the new subheading "Fraud—Use of Simulated Court Process," and to read as follows:

199.

(a) *It is unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to use, sell, send or deliver to another any document which simulates a summons, complaint, or court process of any kind with intent thereby to induce the payment of a claim or which implies that the person, firm or corporation is a branch of or associated with any department or agency of the Federal government or of any State or municipal government. It is also unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to use any seal, insignia, envelope or any other format which simulates that of any governmental department or agency, with intent thereby to induce payments of a claim.*

(b) *Proof that the document was mailed or was delivered to any person with intent that it be forwarded to the intended recipient is sufficient proof of sending.*

(c) *The provisions of this section are applicable notwithstanding that the simulating document contains a statement to the effect that it is not legal process or a governmental document.*

(d) *Violation of this section may be prosecuted in either the county or Baltimore City where the document was used, sent or sold or in which it was delivered.*

(e) *Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the printing, publication or distribution of blank forms of genuine court or legal process.*

(f) *Violation of this section is punishable upon conviction by fine not to exceed One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) for the first offense and by fine not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for any subsequent offense.*

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1966.

Approved April 29, 1966.
