

A014 - 0809

10 AN ACT CONCERNING
20 **Criminal Law – Homicide**

30 FOR the purpose of reinstating a method of the protection of honor for the ladies and gentlemen of
40 the state of Maryland.

50 BY adding,
60 Criminal Law
70 Section 2-210
80 Annotated Code of Maryland

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

110 Criminal Law – Homicide
120 § 2-210

130 (A) NO PERSON SHALL BE CONVICTED UNDER ANY LAW UNDER
140 CRIMINAL LAW IF A CONTRACT OF “DUEL OF HONOR” BE
150 ENTERED INTO BY BOTH PARTIES. SUCH A CONTRACT SHALL
160 STIPULATE THAT:

170 (1) NEITHER PARTY WILL PURSUE ANY CIVIL OR CRIMINAL
180 PROCEEDINGS AGAINST HIS/HER OPPONENT FOR ANY
190 ACTION TAKEN WITHIN SAID DUEL THAT ADHERES TO THE
200 GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED IN §2-210B.

210 (2) EACH INDIVIDUAL IS PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR
220 ANY AND ALL MEDICAL EXPENSES ASSOCIATED WITH
230 THE EXPECTED OUTCOME OF A DUEL.

240 (3) EACH PARTY IS A MUTUALLY CONSENTING ADULT OF THE
250 MINIMUM AGE OF 18, BEING OF SOUND MIND AND CLEAR
260 UNDERSTANDING OF THE POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF A DUEL.

270 (4) NO CONTRACTED DUEL SHALL TAKE PLACE OUTSIDE
280 THE GUIDELINES OF §2-210B.

290 (B) THE EXECUTION OF CONTRACTED DUEL SHALL ADHERE TO
300 THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES

310 (1) EACH DUEL SHALL BE OVERSEEN BY A DESIGNATED
320 MEMBER OF THE STATE POLICE.

330 (2) THE WEAPONS OF THE DUEL SHALL BE:

340 (A) SINGLE-SHOT PISTOLS OR

350 (B) RAPIERS OR OTHER LIKE BLADES, OR

360 (C) TOMOHAWKS, OR

370 (D) KNIVES, BLADES OF 6 OR LESS INCHES.

380 (3) THE TIME AND PLACE OF EACH DUEL SHALL BE AGREED
390 UPON BY BOTH PARTIES AT LEAST 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE
400 AND MUST YIELD TO THE PREFERENCE OF THE
410 OFFICIATING STATE POLICEMAN.

420 (4) DUELS SHALL OCCUR IN A VENUE CHOSEN BY THE
430 OFFICIATING OFFICER WHICH:

440 (A) IN THE CASE OF PISTOLS:

450 (I) ALLOW FOR THE REQUISITE 20 PACES,

460 (II) DOES NOT POSE A VIABLE THREAT TO
470 THE PUBLIC, AND

480 (III) ALLOW FOR THE EASY ACCESS OF
490 EMERGENCY PERSONNEL IF REQUIRED.

510 (B) IN ALL OTHER ACCEPTED WEAPONS CASES:

520 (I) BE AN OPEN, WELL LIT SPACE OF NO LESS
530 THAN 30 FEET IN DIAMETER,
540 (II) ALLOW EASY ACCESS TO EMERGENCY
550 PERSONNEL.

560 (5) PISTOL DUELS SHALL COMMENCE AS FOLLOWS:
570 (A) PRESENTATION OF CONTRACT AND FEE (\$200) TO
580 THE OFFICIATING OFFICER.
590 (B) INSPECTION OF ARMS:
600 (I) NO WEAPON WHICH OFFERS EITHER
610 INDIVIDUAL AN ADVANTAGE OVER THE
620 OTHER MAY NOT BE USED.
630 (C) STATEMENT OF GRIEVANCE:
640 (I) THE OFFENDED PARTY MUST STATE HIS
650 OR HER REASON FOR CHALLENGING HIS
660 OPPONENT.
670 (D) PRESENTATION OF ARMS TO COMBATANTS
680 (E) COMBATANTS STAND BACK TO BACK AND WAIT
690 FOR THE OFFICERS SIGNAL TO BEGIN:
700 (I) EACH PACE IS COUNTED OUT-LOUD BY
710 THE OFFICIAL.
720 (II) ON THE COUNT OF TEN, EACH
730 COMBATANT IS PERMITTED TO TURN AND
740 FIRE ONE SHOT.
750 (III) NEITHER COMBATANT IS PERMITTED TO
760 MOVE FROM THE PLACE OF HIS TENTH STEP
770 OR ATTEMPT TO EVADE AN OPPONENT'S
780 BULLET IN ANY WAY.
790 (IV) AFTER BOTH COMBATANTS HAVE
800 DISCHARGED THEIR FIREARMS OR ONE
810 COMBATANT HAS BEEN DECLARED
820 INCAPACITATED, THEY MAY
830 MOVE ABOUT FREELY, AND THE DUEL
840 BE DECLARED COMPLETE.
850 (F) AT SUCH TIME AS DUEL IS COMPLETED,
860 EMERGENCY PERSONNEL MAY ATTEND TO
870 COMBATANTS AND THE OFFICER MUST REMAIN ON
880 SITE UNTIL AT LEAST ONE COMBATANT HAS LEFT
890 THE FIELD OF BATTLE.

900 (6) BLADE DUELS SHALL COMMENCE AS FOLLOWS:
910 (A) PRESENTATION OF CONTRACT AND FEE (\$200) TO
920 THE OFFICIATING OFFICER.
930 (B) INSPECTION OF ARMS:
940 (I) NO WEAPON WHICH OFFERS EITHER
950 INDIVIDUAL AN ADVANTAGE OVER THE
960 OTHER MAY NOT BE USED.
970 (C) STATEMENT OF GRIEVANCE:
980 (I) THE OFFENDED PARTY MUST STATE HIS
990 OR HER REASON FOR CHALLENGING HIS
1000 OPPONENT.
1010 (D) PRESENTATION OF ARMS TO COMBATANTS
1020 (E) COMBATANTS SHALL STAND NO LESS THAN 6
1030 FEET APART AND COMMENCE ONLY ON THE
1040 COMMAND OF THE OFFICIATING OFFICER.
1050 (F) THE DUEL SHALL BE CONSIDERED OVER AND A VICTOR
1060 DECLARED IF:
1070 (I) BLOOD IS DRAWN FROM ANY BODY PART

1080 EXCEPT THE ARMS OR LEGS OR
1090 (II) EITHER OPPONENT YIELDS
1100 (G) THE OPPONENT WHO DOES NOT YIELD OR LOSE
1110 UNDER §2-010(F) SHOULD BE CONSIDERED THE VICTOR
1120 AND ENJOY THE CONTRACTUAL BENEFITS THEREOF.
1130 (7) IF ANY PARTICIPANT ATTEMPTS TO ATTACK
1140 AN OPPONENT AFTER THE DECLARED END OF A DUEL OR
1150 OUTSIDE THE SPECIFIC GUIDELINES OF THE DUEL, HE
1160 OR SHE FORFEITS HIS CONTRACT AND FACES FULL
1170 CRIMINAL AND CIVIL PENALTIES OTHERWISE APPLICABLE
1180 TO SUCH ACTIONS.
1190 (8) THE USE OF BODY ARMOR WILL BE PERMITTED ONLY IF
1200 MUTUALLY AGGREED UPON AND USED BY BOTH OPPONENTS,
1210 OTHERWISE THE USE OF BODY ARMOR IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

1220 SECTION 2: AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that this act shall take effect
1230 immediately upon signing, or allowance to pass without signing, by the Governor.

1240 Mandates:
1250 Martin O'Malley, Governor
1260 Anthony Brown, Lt. Governor
1270 Thomas V. Miller, Jr. President Maryland State Senate
1280 Michael E. Busch, Speaker, Maryland House of Delegates

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