

## CHAPTER 392

(Senate Bill 387)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 7 of Article 35 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Replacement Volume), title "Evidence," subtitle "Competency of Witness," to [provide that certain evidentiary rules shall apply equally to each spouse.] remove a wife's defense of coercion for certain crimes committed in her husband's presence.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section 7 of Article 35 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1971 Replacement Volume), title "Evidence," subtitle "Competency of Witness," be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

7.

Any presumption of the law that an offense committed by a [wife] [SPOUSE] in the presence of [her husband] [THE OTHER SPOUSE] is committed under the coercion of [the husband] [THAT OTHER SPOUSE] is hereby abolished, but on a charge against a [wife] SPOUSE, for any offense other than treason or murder it shall be a good defense [for her] to prove that the offense was committed in the presence of, and under the coercion of, the [husband] OTHER SPOUSE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1973.

Approved May 21, 1973.

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## CHAPTER 393

(Senate Bill 408)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 149(b) of Article 89B of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1969 Replacement Volume), title "State Roads," subtitle "Bonds, Notes or Other Evidence of Indebtedness," subheading "John F. Kennedy Memorial Highway Revenue Bonds," to change the percentage of total service stations on the John F. Kennedy Memorial Highway which one person may lease or use, or at which motor fuel identified by the trademarks, trade names or brands of any one supplier, distributor or retailer may be sold, and to clarify the language relating thereto.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section 149(b) of Article 89B of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1969 Replacement Volume), title "State Roads," subtitle "Bonds, Notes or Other Evidence of Indebtedness," subheading "John F. Kennedy Memorial Highway Revenue Bonds," be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

149.

(b) Notwithstanding any of the foregoing provisions of this section, the Commission may, by resolution passed prior to the issuance of revenue bonds under the provisions of this subheading or in the trust agreement securing such bonds, covenant to pay all or any part of the cost of maintaining, repairing and