

from or deny to any person because of his race, creed, color or national origin any accommodations, advantages, facilities or privileges of any place or places whose facilities, accommodations, services, commodities or use are offered to or enjoyed by the general public, either with or without charge.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1977.

Approved April 29, 1977.

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CHAPTER 213

(Senate Bill 824)

AN ACT concerning

Desertion of Wife

FOR the purpose of removing the criminal prohibition against desertion of one's wife.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments

Section 88(a)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1976 Replacement Volume and 1976 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section 88(a) of Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1976 Replacement Volume and 1976 Supplement) be and it is hereby repealed and reenacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments

88.

(a) Any person who [shall] without just cause [desert or] wilfully [neglect] NEGLECTS to provide for the support and maintenance of his wife [shall be deemed] IS guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction in any court of the State having criminal jurisdiction shall be punished by a fine not exceeding [one hundred dollars] \$100, or imprisonment [in the Maryland House of Correction, or in jail,] for not more than three years, or both, in the discretion of the court. Any person charged with a violation of this section may be prosecuted in the jurisdiction where he or his wife resides. The fine may be directed by the court to be