

CHAPTER 296

(House Bill 62)

AN ACT concerning

Crimes - Death Penalty - Mitigating Circumstances

FOR the purpose of ~~altering-the-mitigating-circumstances~~ removing intoxication as a separately stated mitigating circumstance that the court or jury may consider in a sentencing proceeding for possible imposition of the death penalty; and providing a preamble of legislative intent.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments  
Section 413(g)  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1982 Replacement Volume and 1982 Supplement)

Preamble

The General Assembly is aware that the Supreme Court has held that evidence of the intoxication of a defendant in a case involving the death penalty must be allowed and considered as a factor in mitigation. The General Assembly further believes that such mitigating factor should be considered under the eighth mitigating factor and not highlighted specifically so as to appear more as justification than as one of the many factors that may be considered as possible mitigation. In striking the word intoxication from the fourth mitigating factor, the General Assembly is not eliminating the consideration of intoxication but altering the emphasis presently indicated; now, therefore,

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

Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments

413.

(g) If the court or jury finds, beyond a reasonable doubt, that one or more of these aggravating circumstances exist, it shall then consider whether, based upon a preponderance of the evidence, any of the following mitigating circumstances exist:

(1) The defendant has ~~not~~ previously (i) been found guilty of a crime of violence; (ii) entered a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to a charge of a crime of violence; or (iii) had a judgment of probation on stay of entry of judgment entered on a charge of a crime of violence. As used in this paragraph, "crime of violence" means abduction, arson, escape,