## CHAPTER 432

(House Bill 642)

AN ACT concerning

District Court - Suspension of Sentence or Probation

FOR the purpose of altering the maximum period of probation or suspension of sentence that a District Court judge may impose; and providing that for the purpose of making restitution if a defendant consents in writing, a District Court judge may place a defendant on probation for a certain period.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments Section 643A(b) Annotated Code of Maryland (1982 Replacement Volume and 1983 Supplement)

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

Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments

643A.

(b)  $\{1\}$  A period of probation or suspension of sentence may not exceed  $-\{-three-\}---5-$  years from the date of suspension or probation.

HOWEVER, IF THE DEFENDANT CONSENTS IN WRITING, THE COURT MAY GRANT PROBATION FOR A PERIOD IN EXCESS OF THREE YEARS, BUT ONLY FOR PURPOSES OF MAKING RESTITUTION.

(2)--FOR--THE--PURPOSE--OF--MAKING-RESTITUTION,-IF-THE DEFENDANT-CONSENTS-IN-WRITING,-A-DISTRICT-COURT-JUDGE--MAY--PLAGE THE-DEFENDANT-ON-PROBATION-FOR-A-PERIOD-IN-EXCESS-OF-5-YEARS.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1984.

Approved May 15, 1984.