

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1986.

Approved May 27, 1986.

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CHAPTER 656

(Senate Bill 199)

AN ACT concerning

Petit Juries - Peremptory Challenges

FOR the purpose of altering the number of peremptory challenges available to a defendant and the State in criminal proceedings involving a sentence of 20 years or more but less than life; making a stylistic change; and clarifying the criminal proceedings that involve a sentence of death or life imprisonment; and generally relating to peremptory challenges.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings  
Section 8-301  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1984 Replacement Volume and 1985 Supplement)

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

Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings

8-301.

(a) In a trial in which the defendant is subject, on any single count, to a sentence of death[, life imprisonment, or 20 years or more of imprisonment, except for common law offenses for which no specific penalty is provided by statute,] BECAUSE NOTICE OF INTENTION TO SEEK A SENTENCE OF DEATH HAS BEEN GIVEN UNDER ARTICLE 27, § 412 OF THE CODE, each defendant is permitted 20 peremptory challenges and the State is permitted [ten] 10 peremptory challenges for each defendant.

(B) IN A CRIMINAL TRIAL IN WHICH THE DEFENDANT IS SUBJECT, ON ANY SINGLE COUNT, TO A SENTENCE OF LIFE IMPRISONMENT, INCLUDING A CASE IN WHICH NOTICE OF INTENTION TO SEEK A SENTENCE OF DEATH HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN UNDER ARTICLE 27, § 412 OF THE CODE, EXCEPT FOR COMMON LAW OFFENSES FOR WHICH NO SPECIFIC PENALTY IS PROVIDED BY STATUTE, EACH DEFENDANT IS PERMITTED 20 PEREMPTORY