

This bill allows certain crime victims or certain other persons to address the sentencing judge or jury before the imposition of a sentence, allows limited cross-examination by a defendant, and prohibits the coercion of victims by certain persons.

House Bill 778, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me on April 29, 1986, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign Senate Bill 311.

Sincerely,  
Harry Hughes  
Governor

Senate Bill No. 311

AN ACT concerning

Victim's or Representative's Right to Address  
Sentencing Judge or Jury

FOR the purpose of entitling allowing certain crime victims or certain other persons to address the sentencing judge or jury before the imposition of a sentence under certain circumstances; ~~authorizing the judge to disallow oral presentations under certain circumstances;~~ allowing limited cross-examination by a defendant; prohibiting the coercion of victims by certain persons; ~~providing that the exercise or failure to exercise provisions of this Act may not be grounds for an appeal of or for a court to take certain actions on a sentence;~~ and generally relating to a victim's or representative's right to address the sentencing judge or jury.

BY adding to

Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments  
Section 643D  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(1982 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 27 - Crimes and Punishments

643D.

(A) IN EVERY CASE ~~IN WHICH A VICTIM IMPACT STATEMENT IS REQUIRED BY ARTICLE 417, SECTION 124 OF THE CODE,~~ RESULTING IN SERIOUS PHYSICAL INJURY OR DEATH, THE VICTIM OR A MEMBER OF THE VICTIM'S IMMEDIATE FAMILY, OR IF THE VICTIM IS DECEASED, UNDER A