

Sincerely,  
Harry Hughes  
Governor

House Bill No. 777

AN ACT concerning

Life Sentence - Jury Instructions -  
"Truth-in-Sentencing"

FOR the purpose of prohibiting a judge from giving a certain instruction to the jury when a life sentence is being considered; and generally relating to jury instructions for defendants with possible life sentences.

BY adding to

Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments  
Section 413A  
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

413A.

A JUDGE MAY NOT INSTRUCT THE JURY THAT THE JURY MUST ASSUME THAT A SENTENCE FOR LIFE IMPRISONMENT IS FOR THE NATURAL LIFE OF THE DEFENDANT.

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

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May 27, 1986

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin  
Speaker of the House of Delegates  
State House  
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed House Bill 786.