

CHAPTER 222

(House Bill 462)

AN ACT concerning

Criminal Cases - Trial Dates in Circuit Courts

FOR the purpose of clarifying the provisions that relate to setting trial dates for criminal matters in the circuit courts and to postponing those dates; and clarifying language.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments
Section 591
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1982 Replacement Volume and 1986 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

591.

(a) [Within two weeks after the arraignment of a person accused of a criminal offense, or within two weeks after the filing of an appearance of counsel or the appointment of counsel for an accused in any criminal matter, whichever shall occur first, a judge or other designated official of the circuit court in which the matter is pending, shall set a date for the trial of the case, which date shall be not later than 180 days from the date of the arraignment of the person accused or the appearance or the appointment of counsel for the accused whichever occurs first. The date established for the trial of the matter shall not be postponed except for good cause shown by the moving party and only with the permission of the administrative judge of the court where the matter is pending.] THE DATE FOR TRIAL OF A CRIMINAL MATTER IN A CIRCUIT COURT:

(1) SHALL BE SET WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER THE EARLIER OF:

(I) THE APPEARANCE OF COUNSEL; OR

(II) THE FIRST APPEARANCE OF THE DEFENDANT BEFORE THE CIRCUIT COURT, AS PROVIDED IN THE MARYLAND RULES; AND

(2) MAY NOT BE LATER THAN 180 DAYS AFTER THE EARLIER OF THOSE EVENTS.