

threats to public health and safety by drug traffickers. The Maryland forfeiture laws are meant to be and should continue to be harsh; otherwise they would be rendered meaningless.

For these reasons, I have vetoed House Bill 1689.

Sincerely,  
William Donald Schaefer  
Governor

### House Bill No. 1689

AN ACT concerning

#### Forfeiture and Seizure - ~~Circuit Court~~ - Court Review

FOR the purpose of authorizing the ~~circuit~~ court to determine if, based on certain factors, a seizing agency or forfeiting authority abused its discretion or was clearly erroneous in making a determination, finding, or recommendation of forfeiture of certain property seized in connection with a controlled dangerous substance related offense; and generally relating to the forfeiture and seizure of property in connection with controlled dangerous substances.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments

Section 297(i)(1)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1992 Replacement Volume and 1993 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments

Section 297(k)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1992 Replacement Volume and 1993 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

297.

(i) In exercising the authority to seize motor vehicles pursuant to this section the following standards shall be utilized:

(1) A motor vehicle used in violation of this section shall be seized and forfeiture recommended to the forfeiting authority when:

(i) Controlled dangerous substances in any quantity are sold or attempted to be sold in violation of this subtitle;