

(1995 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

(As enacted by Section 1 of this Act)

Preamble

~~WHEREAS, The Circuit Court for Baltimore City has assumed the responsibility of trying all asbestos-related personal injury cases filed in the State of Maryland;~~

~~WHEREAS, More than 12,000 of these cases are awaiting trial in the Baltimore City Circuit Court, the majority of which were filed more than five years ago; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Since 1982, less than 300 asbestos-related cases have been resolved by a trial in Maryland, while more than 158,000 nonasbestos tort claims have been cleared from Maryland courts and a total of 1.4 million civil actions in Maryland have been terminated between 1980 and 1994; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Article 19 of the Declaration of Rights of the Maryland Constitution guarantees that every citizen, "for any injury done to him in his person, ought to have remedy by the course of the Law of the land, and ought to have justice and right, freely without sale, fully without any denial, and speedily without any delay, according to the Law of the land"; and~~

~~WHEREAS, More than one half of the violent crimes in Maryland occur in Baltimore City; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The felony docket in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City has experienced a 36% increase since January 1, 1995; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The judicial resources of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City are simply inadequate to ensure compliance with the provisions of Article 19 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights; now, therefore,~~

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

Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings

1-503.

(a) In each county in the first seven judicial circuits there shall be the number of resident judges of the circuit court set forth below, including the judge or judges provided for by the Constitution:

- (1) Allegany 2
- (2) Anne Arundel..... 9
- (3) Baltimore County 15
- (4) Calvert..... 2
- (5) Caroline 1
- (6) Carroll..... 3