5-507

A COURT MAY RESCIND ANY OR ALL OF A PRISONER'S DIMINUTION-CREDITS THAT HAVE BEEN AWARDED UNDER ARTICLE 27, §§ 700 AND 704A OF THE CODE IF THE COURT FINDS THAT:

- (1) THE PRISONER'S CIVIL ACTION IS FRIVOLOUS, MALICIOUS, OR HAS BEEN FILED FOR THE PURPOSE OF HARASSING A PARTY; OR
- (2) THE PRISONER TESTIFIED FALSELY OR KNOWINGLY PRESENTED FALSE EVIDENCE OR FALSE INFORMATION TO THE COURT.

5-508.

A PRISONER MAY NOT MAINTAIN A CIVIL ACTION IF THE SOLE INJURY TO THE PRISONER IS ALLEGED MENTAL ANGUISH OR INJURY UNLESS THE PRISONER CAN PRESENT EVIDENCE THAT THE ALLEGED MENTAL ANGUISH OR INJURY HAS MANIFESTED ITSELF IN A PHYSICAL MANNER.

5-509.

IN A CIVIL ACTION, AN AWARD FOR PUNITIVE DAMAGES AGAINST A DEFENDANT MAY NOT EXCEED \$2,000.

5-510.

IF A PRISONER FILES A CIVIL ACTION THAT IS SUBJECT TO THE ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION PROCEDURES UNDER § 5-502 OF THIS SUBTITLE, A TRANSACTION FEE OF \$1 MAY BE LEVIED AGAINST THE PRISONER'S ACCOUNT EACH TIME THAT A PAYMENT IS FORWARDED TO THE CLERK.

5-511. *5-507.*

NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, IN A CIVIL ACTION FILED BY A PRISONER THAT IS AN APPEAL ON THE RECORD, THE COURT IS NOT REQUIRED TO HOLD A HEARING IF IT DETERMINES THAT A HEARING IS NOT NECESSARY FOR THE DISPOSITION OF THE MATTER.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be construed prospectively to apply only to civil actions filed on or after the effective date of this Act.

SECTION 2. 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 1997.

May 22, 1997

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr. President of the Senate State House Annapolis MD 21401

Dear Mr. President: