

Senate Bill No. 141

AN ACT concerning

Evidence – Battered Spouse Syndrome – Expert Testimony

~~FOR the purpose of allowing a court to admit evidence of certain abuse of a defendant by an individual who is a spouse, former spouse, cohabitant, or former cohabitant of the defendant and who is a victim of a certain crime for which the defendant has been charged under certain circumstances; providing that specific types of evidence may be admitted as relevant to certain defenses; specifying that a court may admit certain evidence notwithstanding certain other evidence; defining certain terms; and generally relating to battered spouse evidence and expert testimony authorizing a court to admit certain evidence of repeated physical and psychological abuse of the defendant in certain criminal cases where the defendant raises certain defenses.~~

FOR the purpose of allowing a court to admit evidence of certain abuse of a defendant by an individual who is a spouse, former spouse, cohabitant, or former cohabitant of the defendant and who is a victim of a certain crime for which the defendant has been charged under certain circumstances; providing that specific types of evidence may be admitted; specifying that a court may admit certain evidence notwithstanding certain other evidence; defining certain terms; and generally relating to battered spouse evidence and expert testimony.

BY adding to

Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

Section 10-916

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1989 Replacement Volume and 1990 Supplement)

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

Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

10-916.

~~(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.~~

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) “BATTERED SPOUSE SYNDROME” MEANS THE PSYCHOLOGICAL CONDITION OF A VICTIM OF REPEATED PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE BY A SPOUSE, FORMER SPOUSE, COHABITANT, OR FORMER COHABITANT WHICH IS ALSO RECOGNIZED IN THE MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY AS THE “BATTERED WOMAN’S SYNDROME”.