

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

**Article 27 – Crimes and Punishments**

623A.

(a) (1) In any criminal proceeding in any court in this State [when the defendant is deaf or a deaf-mute, or because of hearing, speaking, or other impairment, cannot readily understand or communicate the English language, and, is incapable of understanding any charge made against him or the proceedings, or is incapable of presenting or assisting the presentation of his defense,] there shall be appointed a qualified interpreter to assist the defendant throughout the proceedings WHEN THE DEFENDANT:

(I) IS DEAF OR A DEAF-MUTE;

(II) BECAUSE OF HEARING, SPEAKING, OR OTHER IMPAIRMENT CANNOT READILY UNDERSTAND OR COMMUNICATE THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND IS INCAPABLE OF UNDERSTANDING ANY CHARGE MADE AGAINST THE DEFENDANT OR ASSISTING THE PRESENTATION OF THE DEFENSE; OR

(III) CANNOT READILY UNDERSTAND OR COMMUNICATE THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND IS INCAPABLE OF UNDERSTANDING ANY CHARGE MADE AGAINST THE DEFENDANT OR ASSISTING THE PRESENTATION OF THE DEFENSE.

(2) [This] THE appointment REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION shall also be made for parties subject to possible commitment in insanity or mental health commitment proceedings.

(b) Any interpreter appointed pursuant to this section shall receive from the court compensation for his services in an amount equal to that provided for interpreters of languages other than English and reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of his services.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 1992.

Approved May 12, 1992.