

**Joint Resolution No. 5**

**(House Joint Resolution No. 22)**

A House Joint Resolution concerning

**Criminal Sentencing Guidelines – Crimes Against Law Enforcement and Correctional Officers**

FOR the purpose of encouraging the Maryland Sentencing Guidelines Advisory Board to include certain law enforcement and correctional officers within the category of specially vulnerable victims of crimes for certain purposes of calculating a guideline sentence.

WHEREAS, The State owes a great debt to those individuals who are willing to serve as law enforcement and correctional officers; and

WHEREAS, Law enforcement and correctional officers are constantly exposed to great dangers as a result of their duties; and

WHEREAS, Those dangers include the possibility of assault, including assault by individuals with weapons, with serious injury or death resulting; and

WHEREAS, The trial courts in the State use guidelines prepared by the Maryland Sentencing Guidelines Advisory Board in imposing sentences in criminal cases; and

WHEREAS, These guidelines represent an attempt to have the judiciary agree on certain core factors and their weights to be considered in making sentencing decisions; and

WHEREAS, These guidelines do not currently take into account that the victim of the crime was a law enforcement or correctional officer; and

WHEREAS, The serious nature of crimes against law enforcement or correctional officers and the special vulnerability of these officers during the performance of their duties justifies including them among the category of specially vulnerable victims of crimes; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Maryland Sentencing Guidelines Advisory Board is encouraged to include law enforcement and correctional officers within the category of specially vulnerable victims of crimes for the purpose of calculating a guideline sentence in a criminal case; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative Reference to Chief Judge Robert C. Murphy, Courts of Appeal Building, 361 Rowe Boulevard, Annapolis, Maryland 21401; and Circuit Administrative Judge Joseph H. H. Kaplan, Chairman of the Maryland Sentencing Guidelines Advisory Board, 642 Mitchell Court House, 100 North Calvert Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202.