(4) Whether the sentence of death is excessive or disproportionate to the penalty imposed in similar cases, considering both the crime and the defendant.

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

May 26, 1992

The Honorable R. Clayton Mitchell, Jr. Speaker of the House of Delegates State House Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, I have today vetoed House Bill 490.

This bill would raise from \$500 to \$5,000 the amount in controversy necessary in a civil proceeding before a party may demand a jury trial, contingent on passage of a Constitutional Amendment.

Senate Bill 433, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me on May 5, 1992, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign House Bill 490.

Sincerely, William Donald Schaefer Governor

## House Bill No. 490

## AN ACT concerning

## District Court - Civil Actions - Jury Trials

FOR the purpose of altering the amount in controversy necessary to demand a jury trial in a civil action; making this Act contingent on the passage and ratification of another Act; and generally relating to the right of trial by jury in civil actions.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings

Section 4-402(e)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1989 Replacement Volume and 1991 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings

Section 4-405