Unofficial Copy   1996 Regular Session
                                                      (PRE-FILED)

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By: Delegate Fulton
Requested: July 11, 1995
Introduced and read first time: January 10, 1996
Assigned to: Judiciary

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[TAG entitle]A BILL ENTITLED
[TAG actc]AN ACT concerning Bail Bonds - Searchers for Fugitive Defendants - Qualifications

FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person who has been convicted of a felony from
            engaging in the business of securing the arrest, apprehension, or surrender of a
            defendant who violates a condition of a bail bond; making certain stylistic changes;
            and generally relating to persons who search for defendants who failto comply with
            the terms of their bail bonds.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
            Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments
            Section 616 1/2(f)(1)
            Annotated Code of Maryland
            (1992 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

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

Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments

616 1/2.

        (f) (1) (I) The circuit courts for each of the counties are authorized to
prescribe by rule of court the terms and conditions of bail bonds filed in the circuit court
for each county respectively.

                (II) [This] SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (III) OF THIS PARAGRAPH,
THIS power includes but is not limited to prescribing the qualifications of and fees
charged by bondsmen.

                (III) A PERSON WHO HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF A FELONY MAY NOT
ENGAGE IN THE BUSINESS OF SECURING THE ARREST, APPREHENSION, OR
SURRENDER OF A DEFENDANT WHO VIOLATES A CONDITION OF A BAIL BOND.

                (IV) A bond commissioner may be appointed to administer the rules of

court adopted pursuant to this section.

     (V) Violations of any rule of court promulgated hereunder shall be considered contempt of court and punished as for contempt.

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     (VI) In addition a person may not engage in the business of becoming
surety for compensation on bonds in criminal cases until [he shall have been]THE
PERSON IS approved by such rules as the circuit court may have adopted and, if required
under the provisions of Article 48A of the Code, licensed in accordance with Article 48A
of the Code.

    SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
October 1, 1996.

* * * Document not in bill format * * *
* * * Please contact LDP at x3900 * * *