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**By: Senator Sfikas**

Introduced and read first time: February 16, 1996

Assigned to: Rules

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Prostitution - Penalties**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the penalties for certain prostitution related offenses;  
4 prohibiting a court from suspending all or a portion of a fine imposed under this  
5 Act; and generally relating to the penalties for certain prostitution related offenses.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
7 Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments  
8 Section 15  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

11 BY repealing  
12 Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments  
13 Section 17  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

16 BY adding to  
17 Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments  
18 Section 17  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

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

23 **Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments**

24 15.

25 It shall be unlawful:

26 (a) To keep, set up, maintain or operate any place, structure, building or  
27 conveyance for the purpose of prostitution, lewdness or assignation;

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1 (b) To occupy any place, structure, building or conveyance for the purpose of  
2 prostitution, lewdness or assignation, or for any person to permit any place, structure,  
3 building or conveyance owned by him or under his control to be used for the purpose of  
4 prostitution, lewdness or assignation with knowledge or reasonable cause to know that the  
5 same is, or is to be, used for such purpose;

6 (c) To receive, or to offer or agree to receive any person into any place, structure,  
7 building or conveyance for the purpose of prostitution, lewdness or assignation, or to  
8 knowingly permit any person to remain there for such purpose;

9 (d) To direct, take or transport, or to offer or agree to take or transport, any  
10 person to any place, structure or building or to any other person with knowledge or  
11 reasonable cause to know that the purpose of such directing, taking or transporting is  
12 prostitution, lewdness or assignation;

13 (e) To procure or to solicit or to offer to procure or solicit for the purpose of  
14 prostitution, lewdness or assignation;

15 (f) To reside in, enter in any place, structure, building, or to remain in any  
16 conveyance, for the purpose of prostitution, lewdness or assignation; or

17 (g) To engage in prostitution, lewdness or assignation by any means whatsoever.

18 [17.

19 Any person convicted of violating any of the provisions of § 15 shall be subject to a  
20 fine of not more than \$500.00 or to confinement in or commitment to any penal or  
21 reformatory institution in this State for not more than one year, or to both such fine and  
22 imprisonment in the discretion of the court; provided, that the sentence or any part  
23 thereof may be suspended and provided that the defendant may be placed on parole or  
24 probation.]

25 17.

26 A PERSON WHO VIOLATES ANY OF THE PROVISIONS OF § 15 OF THIS  
27 SUBHEADING IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO A  
28 FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$1,000 OR A TERM OF IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 1 YEAR  
29 OR BOTH, AND:

30 (1) IT IS MANDATORY FOR THE COURT TO IMPOSE NO LESS THAN THE  
31 FOLLOWING MINIMUM FINES:

32 (I) FOR A FIRST OFFENSE, A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN \$25; AND

33 (II) FOR A SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE, A FINE OF NOT LESS  
34 THAN TWICE THE AMOUNT IMPOSED FOR THE IMMEDIATELY PREVIOUS  
35 CONVICTION UNDER THIS SECTION; AND

36 (2) THE COURT MAY NOT SUSPEND ALL OR A PORTION OF ANY FINE  
37 IMPOSED UNDER THIS SECTION.

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