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**By: Delegates Bonsack, Beck, E. Burns, M. Burns, Donoghue, Elliott, Fry, Harkins,  
Jacobs, Kelly, C. Mitchell, Muse, and Rudolph**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 1997

Assigned to: Judiciary

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Crimes - Inducement to Commit Suicide**

3 FOR the purpose of making the inducement to commit suicide a felonious crime;  
4 providing for certain defenses; specifying a penalty; and generally relating to the  
5 crime of inducement to commit suicide.

6 BY adding to

7 Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments  
8 Section 415A  
9 Annotated Code of Maryland  
10 (1996 Replacement Volume)

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

13 **Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments**

14 415A.

15 (A) A PERSON MAY NOT INDUCE ANOTHER PERSON TO COMMIT SUICIDE.

16 (B) SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION, A  
17 PERSON COMMITS THE CRIME OF INDUCEMENT TO COMMIT SUICIDE WHEN THE  
18 PERSON:

19 (1) KNOWINGLY BY FORCE, COERCION, OR DURESS CAUSES ANOTHER  
20 PERSON TO COMMIT OR ATTEMPT TO COMMIT SUICIDE.

21 (2) WITH KNOWLEDGE THAT THE OTHER PERSON INTENDS TO COMMIT  
22 OR ATTEMPT TO COMMIT SUICIDE, INTENTIONALLY:

23 (I) OFFERS AND PROVIDES THE PHYSICAL MEANS BY WHICH THE  
24 OTHER PERSON COMMITS OR ATTEMPTS TO COMMIT SUICIDE; OR

25 (II) PARTICIPATES IN A PHYSICAL ACT BY WHICH THE OTHER  
26 PERSON COMMITS OR ATTEMPTS TO COMMIT SUICIDE.

1 (C) FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION, "ATTEMPTS TO COMMIT SUICIDE"  
2 MEANS ANY ACT DONE WITH THE INTENT TO COMMIT SUICIDE AND WHICH  
3 CONSTITUTES A SUBSTANTIAL STEP TOWARD COMMISSION OF SUICIDE.

4 (D) (1) A LAWFUL COMPLIANCE WITH OR A GOOD FAITH ATTEMPT FOR A  
5 LAWFUL COMPLIANCE WITH TITLE 5, SUBTITLE 6 "HEALTH CARE DECISION ACT" OF  
6 THE HEALTH - GENERAL ARTICLE MAY NOT BE DEEMED TO BE AN INDUCEMENT TO  
7 COMMIT SUICIDE UNDER THIS SECTION.

8 (2) A LICENSED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL WHO ADMINISTERS,  
9 PRESCRIBES, OR DISPENSES MEDICATIONS OR PROCEDURES TO RELIEVE ANOTHER  
10 PERSON'S PAIN OR DISCOMFORT, EVEN IF THE MEDICATION OR PROCEDURE MAY  
11 HASTEN OR INCREASE THE RISK OF DEATH, MAY NOT BE DEEMED TO BE AN  
12 INDUCEMENT TO COMMIT SUICIDE UNDER THIS SECTION UNLESS THE  
13 MEDICATIONS OR PROCEDURES ARE KNOWINGLY ADMINISTERED, PRESCRIBED, OR  
14 DISPENSED TO CAUSE DEATH.

15 (E) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A FELONY AND ON  
16 CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO A FINE OF NOT MORE THAN \$10,000 OR IMPRISONMENT  
17 FOR NOT MORE THAN 3 YEARS OR BOTH.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
19 October 1, 1997.