
By: Senators Trotter and Young

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 1997

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Death Penalty - Jury Instructions**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a judge, on request of the defendant in a death penalty
4 case, to instruct the jury that its decision must be made without regard to the race
5 of the defendant or the race of the victim; and generally relating to jury instructions
6 in death penalty cases.

7 BY adding to

8 Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments
9 Section 413B
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (1996 Replacement Volume)

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

14 **Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments**

15 413B.

16 IN A TRIAL OF A PERSON FOR MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE IN WHICH THE
17 STATE SEEKS A SENTENCE OF DEATH, ON REQUEST OF THE DEFENDANT, THE JUDGE
18 SHALL INSTRUCT THE JURY THAT THE DECISION OF THE JURY MUST BE MADE
19 WITHOUT REGARD TO THE RACE OF THE DEFENDANT OR THE RACE OF THE VICTIM.

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