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By: **Senator Colburn**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 1999

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot Counties - Orphans' Courts - Selection of**  
3 **Chief Judges**

4 FOR the purpose of altering provisions so that the judges of the Orphans' Courts in  
5 Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot Counties are required to select a Chief Judge  
6 from among themselves; and generally relating to the judges of the Orphans'  
7 Courts of Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot Counties.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article - Estates and Trusts  
10 Section 2-107  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (1991 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

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

15 **Article - Estates and Trusts**

16 2-107.

17 (a) Except in CAROLINE, DORCHESTER, Harford, [and] Montgomery, AND  
18 TALBOT Counties, the Governor shall designate and commission one of the three  
19 judges of the Court in each county as Chief Judge of the Court. Full power and  
20 authority are vested in each judge designated and commissioned as chief judge to act  
21 as chief judge. Any writ and other process tested in the name of the chief judge is valid  
22 for any purpose.

23 (b) A reference in the estates of decedents law to the chief judge of the court of  
24 a county means, with regard to Harford or Montgomery County, the judge of the  
25 circuit court then sitting as the Orphans' Court. A reference to the judges of the court  
26 in plural number means, with respect to Harford or Montgomery County, the judge of  
27 the circuit court then sitting as the Orphans' Court, unless the section otherwise  
28 specifically provides.

1 (C) IN CAROLINE, DORCHESTER, AND TALBOT COUNTIES, THE CHIEF JUDGE  
2 OF THE ORPHANS' COURT SHALL BE SELECTED BY THE THREE JUDGES OF THE  
3 ORPHANS' COURT IN EACH COUNTY FROM AMONG THEMSELVES.

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
5 effect October 1, 1999.