
By: **Delegates Marriott, Benson, Grosfeld, Howard, Kirk, Nathan-Pulliam,
Phillips, and Proctor**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2000

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Crimes and Punishments - Procedure - Circuit Courts - Trial Date**

3 FOR the purpose of eliminating the ability of a court to postpone a trial date later
4 than a certain number of days after the earlier of the appearance of counsel or
5 the first appearance of the defendant before the court; and generally relating to
6 criminal trial dates.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article 27 - Crimes and Punishments
9 Section 591
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (1996 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

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**

15 591.

16 (a) The date for trial of a criminal matter in a circuit court:

17 (1) Shall be set within 30 days after the earlier of:

18 (i) The appearance of counsel; or

19 (ii) The first appearance of the defendant before the circuit court,
20 as provided in the Maryland Rules; and

21 (2) May not be later than 180 days after the earlier of those events.

22 (b) On motion of a party or on the court's initiative and for good cause shown,
23 a county administrative judge or a designee of that judge may grant a change of the
24 circuit court trial date PROVIDED THE NEW DATE IS WITHIN THE TIME LIMITS SET IN
25 SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.

1 (c) The Court of Appeals may adopt additional rules of practice and procedure
2 for the implementation of this section in circuit courts.

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
4 October 1, 2000.