HOUSE BILL 398

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By: **Delegates Gladden, Vallario, Brown, Cole, C. Davis, Grosfeld, K. Kelly,
      Montague, and Paige**
Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2001
Assigned to: Judiciary

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2   **Criminal Procedure - Circuit Courts - Time for Trial**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing in a criminal case in a circuit court that if a certain
4   trial date is changed that any subsequent change of the trial date may only be
5   made by certain judges for good cause shown under certain circumstances; and
6   generally relating to the time for trials of criminal cases in the circuit courts.

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 2000 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)   (1)   On motion of a party or on the court's initiative and for good cause
23 shown, a county administrative judge or a designee of that judge may grant a change
24 of the circuit court trial date.

1   (2)   IF A CIRCUIT COURT TRIAL DATE IS CHANGED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)
2 OF THIS SUBSECTION, ANY SUBSEQUENT CHANGES OF THE TRIAL DATE MAY ONLY
3 BE MADE BY THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE OR THAT JUDGE'S DESIGNEE FOR
4 GOOD CAUSE SHOWN.

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

7   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
8 October 1, 2001.