

HOUSE BILL 623

E1
HB 645/07 – JUD

8lr2120

By: **Delegates McDonough, Boteler, Impallaria, McComas, Norman, and O'Donnell**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2008

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Crimes – Victim and Witness Intimidation – Death Penalty**

3 FOR the purpose of making the first-degree murder of victims, witnesses, and certain
4 individuals in the course of committing or attempting to commit certain crimes
5 relating to the individuals' official duties or participation in certain proceedings,
6 reports, or investigations an aggravating factor for the purpose of imposing the
7 death penalty; and generally relating to victim and witness intimidation and
8 the death penalty.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
10 Article – Criminal Law
11 Section 2–303(b)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2002 Volume and 2007 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Article – Criminal Law
16 Section 2–303(g)(1)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2002 Volume and 2007 Supplement)

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

21 **Article – Criminal Law**

22 2–303.

23 (b) If the State gave notice under § 2–202(a)(1) of this title, a separate
24 sentencing proceeding shall be held as soon as practicable after a defendant is found

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 guilty of murder in the first degree to determine whether the defendant shall be
2 sentenced to death.

3 (g) (1) In determining a sentence under subsection (b) of this section, the
4 court or jury first shall consider whether any of the following aggravating
5 circumstances exists beyond a reasonable doubt:

6 (i) one or more persons committed the murder of a law
7 enforcement officer while the officer was performing the officer's duties;

8 (ii) the defendant committed the murder while confined in a
9 correctional facility;

10 (iii) the defendant committed the murder in furtherance of an
11 escape from, an attempt to escape from, or an attempt to evade lawful arrest, custody,
12 or detention by:

13 1. a guard or officer of a correctional facility; or

14 2. a law enforcement officer;

15 (iv) the victim was taken or attempted to be taken in the course
16 of an abduction, kidnapping, or an attempt to abduct or kidnap;

17 (v) the victim was a child abducted in violation of § 3-503(a)(1)
18 of this article;

19 (vi) the defendant committed the murder under an agreement or
20 contract for remuneration or promise of remuneration to commit the murder;

21 (vii) the defendant employed or engaged another to commit the
22 murder and the murder was committed under an agreement or contract for
23 remuneration or promise of remuneration;

24 (viii) the defendant committed the murder while under a sentence
25 of death or imprisonment for life;

26 (ix) the defendant committed more than one murder in the first
27 degree arising out of the same incident; or

28 (x) the defendant committed the murder while committing, or
29 attempting to commit:

30 1. arson in the first degree;

31 2. carjacking or armed carjacking;

32 3. rape in the first degree;

- 1 4. robbery under § 3-402 or § 3-403 of this article; [or]
- 2 5. sexual offense in the first degree; **OR**
- 3 6. **A VIOLATION OF § 9-302, § 9-303, OR § 9-305 OF**
- 4 **THIS ARTICLE.**

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
6 October 1, 2008.