

# SENATE BILL 427

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By: **Senators Harris and Stone**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2008

Assigned to: Finance and Judicial Proceedings

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Due Process - The Right to Life Act**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing that a person's right to due process and equal  
4 protection of the laws guaranteed under the Maryland Constitution vests at  
5 conception; and generally relating to due process and equal protection of laws  
6 under the Maryland Constitution.

7 BY adding to

8 Article 1 – Rules of Interpretation

9 Section 38

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

12 Preamble

13 WHEREAS, The General Assembly of Maryland, under Article III of the  
14 Maryland Constitution, is empowered to assemble to make new laws, as the common  
15 good may require; and

16 WHEREAS, Article 24 of the Declaration of Rights of the Maryland  
17 Constitution guarantees that no person may be deprived of life, liberty, or property,  
18 without due process of law or denied the equal protection of the laws; and

19 WHEREAS, The General Assembly, in the exercise of its constitutional powers  
20 and in carrying out its duties and responsibilities under the law, finds it necessary and  
21 proper to ensure that the rights of the citizens of the State extend to each newly born  
22 and unborn human person; now, therefore,

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

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **Article 1 – Rules of Interpretation**2 **38.**

3 (A) **THE RIGHT TO DUE PROCESS GUARANTEED BY ARTICLE 24 OF THE**  
4 **DECLARATION OF RIGHTS OF THE MARYLAND CONSTITUTION, THAT A PERSON**  
5 **MAY NOT BE DEPRIVED OF LIFE, LIBERTY, OR PROPERTY WITHOUT DUE**  
6 **PROCESS OF LAW OR DENIED EQUAL PROTECTION OF THE LAWS, VESTS AT**  
7 **CONCEPTION.**

8 (B) **THIS SECTION MAY BE CITED AS THE RIGHT TO LIFE ACT.**

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