

# SENATE BILL 135

E2

EMERGENCY BILL

(0lr0500)

**ENROLLED BILL**

— *Judicial Proceedings/Judiciary* —

Introduced by **Senator Kelley**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this

\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock, \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President.

## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Procedure – Petition for Writ of Actual Innocence – Notice of Filing**  
3 **and Hearing**

4 FOR the purpose of limiting to a person charged by indictment or criminal information  
5 with a crime triable in circuit court and convicted of that crime the authority to  
6 file a petition for writ of actual innocence under certain circumstances; requiring  
7 a certain person who files a petition for writ of actual innocence to notify the  
8 State of the filing in a certain manner; authorizing the State to file a response  
9 to a petition for writ of actual innocence within a certain period of time;  
10 requiring that the victim or victim's representative be notified of a hearing on a  
11 petition for writ of actual innocence before the hearing is held; establishing that  
12 a victim or victim's representative has the right to attend a hearing on a  
13 petition for writ of actual innocence; repealing a provision of law authorizing the  
14 court to dismiss a certain petition without a hearing if the court finds that the

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

*Italics* indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.



*petition fails to state a claim;* making this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to a petition for writ of actual innocence.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Criminal Procedure  
Section 8–301  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2008 Replacement Volume and 2009 Supplement)

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

**Article – Criminal Procedure**

8–301.

(a) A ~~convicted~~ person **CHARGED BY INDICTMENT OR CRIMINAL INFORMATION WITH A CRIME TRIABLE IN CIRCUIT COURT AND CONVICTED OF THAT CRIME MAY**, at any time, ~~may~~ file a petition for writ of actual innocence in the circuit court for the county in which the conviction was imposed if the person claims that there is newly discovered evidence that:

(1) creates a substantial or significant possibility that the result may have been different, as that standard has been judicially determined; and

(2) could not have been discovered in time to move for a new trial under Maryland Rule 4–331.

(b) A petition filed under this section shall:

(1) be in writing;

(2) state in detail the grounds on which the petition is based;

(3) describe the newly discovered evidence;

(4) contain or be accompanied by a request for hearing if a hearing is sought; and

(5) distinguish the newly discovered evidence claimed in the petition from any claims made in prior petitions.

**(C) (1) A PETITIONER SHALL NOTIFY THE STATE IN WRITING OF THE FILING OF A PETITION UNDER THIS SECTION.**

1           **(2) THE STATE MAY FILE A RESPONSE TO THE PETITION WITHIN**  
2 **~~15~~ 90 DAYS AFTER RECEIPT OF THE NOTICE REQUIRED UNDER THIS**  
3 **SUBSECTION OR WITHIN THE PERIOD OF TIME THAT THE COURT ORDERS.**

4           **(D) (1) BEFORE A HEARING IS HELD ON A PETITION FILED UNDER**  
5 **THIS SECTION, THE VICTIM OR VICTIM'S REPRESENTATIVE SHALL BE NOTIFIED**  
6 **OF THE HEARING AS PROVIDED UNDER § 11-104 OR § 11-503 OF THIS ARTICLE.**

7           **(2) A VICTIM OR VICTIM'S REPRESENTATIVE HAS THE RIGHT TO**  
8 **ATTEND A HEARING ON A PETITION FILED UNDER THIS SECTION AS PROVIDED**  
9 **UNDER § 11-102 OF THIS ARTICLE.**

10           **[(c)] (E) (1)** Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the  
11 court shall hold a hearing on a petition filed under this section if the petition satisfies  
12 the requirements of subsection (b) of this section and a hearing was requested.

13           **(2)** The court may dismiss a petition without a hearing if the court  
14 finds that the petition fails to ~~state a claim or~~ assert grounds on which relief may be  
15 granted.

16           **[(d)] (F) (1)** In ruling on a petition filed under this section, the court may  
17 set aside the verdict, resentence, grant a new trial, or correct the sentence, as the  
18 court considers appropriate.

19           **(2)** The court shall state the reasons for its ruling on the record.

20           **[(e)] (G)** A petitioner in a proceeding under this section has the burden of  
21 proof.

22           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency  
23 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety,  
24 has been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members  
25 elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from  
26 the date it is enacted.