

HOUSE BILL 1044

E2, D1

6lr1759
CF SB 640

By: **Delegates Valentine, Arikan, Baker, Bouchat, Griffith, Hornberger,
Hutchinson, R. Long, Miller, Reilly, Tomlinson, and Wivell**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2026

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Procedure – Postconviction Release – Crimes Resulting in Death of**
3 **Young Victim**

4 FOR the purpose of prohibiting the release of a defendant pending sentencing or exhaustion
5 of appellate review after conviction of a certain crime resulting in the death of a
6 victim under a certain age; and generally relating to postconviction release.

7 BY adding to

8 Article – Criminal Procedure

9 Section 5–301 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 3. Postconviction Release”

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2025 Replacement Volume)

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

14 **Article – Criminal Procedure**

15 **SUBTITLE 3. POSTCONVICTION RELEASE.**

16 **5–301.**

17 **A COURT MAY NOT RELEASE A DEFENDANT AFTER CONVICTION PENDING**
18 **SENTENCING OR EXHAUSTION OF ANY APPELLATE REVIEW IF:**

19 **(1) THE DEFENDANT WAS CONVICTED OF:**

20 **(i) A CRIME OF VIOLENCE, AS DEFINED IN § 14–101 OF THE**
21 **CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE; OR**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(II) A VIOLATION OF § 3-602.1 (CHILD NEGLECT) OF THE**
2 **CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE; AND**

3 **(2) THE CRIME RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF A VICTIM UNDER THE**
4 **AGE OF 14 YEARS.**

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
6 October 1, 2026.