

**CHRIS WEST**  
*Legislative District 42*  
Baltimore County

Judicial Proceedings Committee

Vice Chair, Baltimore County  
Senate Delegation



**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

*Annapolis Office*  
James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 303  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3648 · 301-858-3648  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3648  
Chris.West@senate.state.md.us

*District Office*  
1134 York Road, Suite 200  
Lutherville -Timonium, MD 21093  
410-823-7087

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Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
The Honorable William C. Smith  
2 East Miller Senate Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

**RE: SB 235 – Criminal Law – Attempt to Commit Second-Degree Murder - Penalty**

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee:

I am pleased to introduce Senate Bill 235 which seeks to increase the maximum penalty for attempting to commit second-degree murder from 30 years to 40 years.

In current Maryland statute, the penalty for committing second-degree murder is a sentence not exceeding 40 years. With first degree murder in addition to other attempt crimes there is no difference between the two maximum sentences. This bill would bring even the penalties for committing second degree murder as well as the attempt to commit second-degree murder as to keep the statute consistent among all levels. In addition this bill is needed as the additional 10 years are important factors taken into account in the Justice Reinvestment Act. Finally, the maximum penalty for first degree assault is only 5 years less than that of the attempt to commit second-degree murder, a very disproportionate sentence considering the difference in severity between the two crimes.

This really is a simple housekeeping bill that will help to clean up current Maryland statute and keep consistent the penalties for the attempt to commit as well as the committing of second-degree murder. For these reasons I ask for a favorable committee report on Senate Bill 235.