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HOUSE BILL 1129: STATE POLICE - DNA TESTING

By Stacey E. Burnett

House Bill 1129, entitled "Testing of Violent Criminals," repeals and reenacts, with amendments, Maryland Annotated Code, Article 88B, section 12A, which requires that defendants convicted of specific violent crimes provide a DNA sample under certain circumstances.

The Bill added specific crimes of violence to Article 88B, section 12A, including murder, in any degree, robbery, in any degree, first degree assault, and attempts to commit any of the listed crimes of violence. A violent offender will be required to provide a DNA sample as a condition of sentence, or if not sentenced, as a condition of probation. Failure to comply with an order to submit a DNA sample within ninety days of notification will constitute violation of probation. The DNA sample shall be submitted to the Department of State Police instead of the Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services.

The House Bill 1129 became effective October 1, 1999.