

SENATE BILL 316

E1

7lr0147
CF 7lr0171

By: **The President (By Request – Administration) and Senators Bates, Brochin, Cassilly, Eckardt, Edwards, Hershey, Jennings, Lee, Mathias, Norman, Ready, Salling, Serafini, Simonaire, and Waugh**

Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2017

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Courts – Evidence of Sexually Assaultive Behavior – Admissibility**
3 **(The Repeat Sexual Predator Prevention Act of 2017)**

4 FOR the purpose of providing that, in a prosecution for certain sexual offenses, evidence
5 that the defendant committed sexually assaultive behavior at a certain time may be
6 admissible for certain reasons; requiring that the State file a certain motion to
7 introduce evidence of certain sexually assaultive behavior at a certain time;
8 requiring a certain motion to include certain information; requiring the State to
9 provide a copy of a certain motion to the defendant; requiring a court to hold a
10 hearing on a certain motion outside the presence of a jury; authorizing the court to
11 admit certain evidence if the court makes certain findings; requiring a court to
12 consider certain factors at a certain time; providing that this Act does not limit the
13 admission or consideration of certain evidence; defining a certain term; and generally
14 relating to the admissibility of evidence.

15 BY adding to
16 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
17 Section 10–923
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

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

22 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

23 **10–923.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(A) IN THIS SECTION, "SEXUALLY ASSAULTIVE BEHAVIOR" MEANS AN ACT THAT WOULD CONSTITUTE:

(1) A SEXUAL CRIME UNDER TITLE 3, SUBTITLE 3 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE;

(2) SEXUAL ABUSE OF A MINOR UNDER § 3-602 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE;

(3) SEXUAL ABUSE OF A VULNERABLE ADULT UNDER § 3-604 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE;

(4) A VIOLATION OF 18 U.S.C. CHAPTER 109A; OR

(5) A VIOLATION OF A LAW OF ANOTHER STATE, THE UNITED STATES, OR A FOREIGN COUNTRY THAT IS EQUIVALENT TO AN OFFENSE UNDER ITEM (1), (2), (3), OR (4) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

(B) IN A CRIMINAL TRIAL FOR A SEXUAL OFFENSE LISTED IN SUBSECTION (A)(1), (2), OR (3) OF THIS SECTION, EVIDENCE OF OTHER SEXUALLY ASSAULTIVE BEHAVIOR BY THE DEFENDANT OCCURRING BEFORE OR AFTER THE OFFENSE FOR WHICH THE DEFENDANT IS ON TRIAL MAY BE ADMISSIBLE.

(C) (1) THE STATE SHALL FILE A MOTION OF INTENT TO INTRODUCE EVIDENCE OF SEXUALLY ASSAULTIVE BEHAVIOR AT LEAST 90 DAYS BEFORE TRIAL OR AT A LATER TIME IF AUTHORIZED BY THE COURT FOR GOOD CAUSE.

(2) A MOTION FILED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE EVIDENCE.

(3) THE STATE SHALL PROVIDE A COPY OF A MOTION FILED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION TO THE DEFENDANT AND INCLUDE ANY OTHER INFORMATION REQUIRED TO BE DISCLOSED UNDER MARYLAND RULE 4-262 OR 4-263.

(D) THE COURT SHALL HOLD A HEARING OUTSIDE THE PRESENCE OF A JURY TO DETERMINE THE ADMISSIBILITY OF EVIDENCE OF SEXUALLY ASSAULTIVE BEHAVIOR.

(E) THE COURT MAY ADMIT EVIDENCE OF SEXUALLY ASSAULTIVE BEHAVIOR IF THE COURT FINDS AND STATES ON THE RECORD THAT:

(1) THE EVIDENCE IS BEING OFFERED TO:

1 **(I) PROVE LACK OF CONSENT; OR**

2 **(II) REBUT AN EXPRESS OR IMPLIED ALLEGATION THAT A**
3 **MINOR VICTIM FABRICATED THE SEXUAL OFFENSE;**

4 **(2) THE SEXUALLY ASSAULTIVE BEHAVIOR WAS PROVEN BY CLEAR**
5 **AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE; AND**

6 **(3) THE PROBATIVE VALUE OF THE EVIDENCE IS NOT**
7 **SUBSTANTIALLY OUTWEIGHED BY THE DANGER OF UNFAIR PREJUDICE.**

8 **(F) BEFORE MAKING THE FINDINGS UNDER SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS**
9 **SECTION, THE COURT SHALL CONSIDER:**

10 **(1) WHETHER THE ISSUE FOR WHICH THE EVIDENCE OF THE**
11 **SEXUALLY ASSAULTIVE BEHAVIOR IS BEING OFFERED IS IN DISPUTE;**

12 **(2) THE SIMILARITY BETWEEN THE SEXUALLY ASSAULTIVE**
13 **BEHAVIOR AND THE SEXUAL OFFENSE FOR WHICH THE DEFENDANT IS ON TRIAL;**

14 **(3) THE CLOSENESS IN TIME OF THE SEXUALLY ASSAULTIVE**
15 **BEHAVIOR AND THE SEXUAL OFFENSE FOR WHICH THE DEFENDANT IS ON TRIAL;**
16 **AND**

17 **(4) THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE SEXUALLY ASSAULTIVE BEHAVIOR**
18 **FROM THE SEXUAL OFFENSE FOR WHICH THE DEFENDANT IS ON TRIAL.**

19 **(G) THIS SECTION DOES NOT LIMIT THE ADMISSION OR CONSIDERATION OF**
20 **EVIDENCE UNDER ANY MARYLAND RULE OR OTHER PROVISION OF LAW.**

21 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July**
22 **1, 2017.**