

HOUSE BILL 918

E2
SB 1017/19 – JPR

0lr2977
CF SB 1048

By: **Delegate Wilson**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2020

Assigned to: Judiciary

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 6, 2020

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Criminal Procedure – Office of the Public Defender – Definition of Serious**
3 **Offense**

4 FOR the purpose of altering a certain definition of “serious offense” to remove a certain
5 limitation on offenses that are included for purposes relating to representation by
6 the Office of the Public Defender; and generally relating to the Office of the Public
7 Defender.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
9 Article – Criminal Procedure
10 Section 16–101(a) and 16–204(b)(1)(i)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article – Criminal Procedure
15 Section 16–101(h)
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Criminal Procedure**

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.



1 16-101.

2 (a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

3 (h) "Serious offense" means:

4 (1) a felony;

5 (2) a misdemeanor or offense punishable by confinement [for more than 3
6 months or a fine of more than \$500];

7 (3) a delinquent act that would be a serious offense if committed by an
8 adult; or

9 (4) an offense in which, in the opinion of the court, the complexity of the
10 matter or the youth, inexperience, or mental capacity of the accused requires
11 representation of the accused by an attorney.

12 16-204.

13 (b) (1) Indigent defendants or parties shall be provided representation under
14 this title in:

15 (i) a criminal or juvenile proceeding in which a defendant or party
16 is alleged to have committed a serious offense;

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
18 October 1, 2020.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.