FIRST REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 839

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE LEWIS (25).

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal sections 546.680, 546.690, 546.700, 546.710, 546.720, 546.730, 546.740, 546.750, 546.800, 546.810, 546.820, 557.021, 565.004, 565.005, 565.006, 565.020, 565.030, 565.032, 565.035, and 565.040, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof five new sections relating to repealing the death penalty, with a penalty provision.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 546.680, 546.690, 546.700, 546.710, 546.720, 546.730, 546.740, 546.750, 546.800, 546.810, 546.820, 557.021, 565.004, 565.005, 565.006, 565.020, 565.030, 565.032, 565.035, and 565.040, RSMo, are repealed and five new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 557.021, 565.004, 565.006, 565.020, and 565.040, to read as follows:

557.021. 1. Any offense defined outside this code [which] that is declared to be a misdemeanor without specification of the penalty therefor is a class A misdemeanor.

3 2. Any offense defined outside this code [which] that is declared to be a felony
4 without specification of the penalty therefor is a class E felony.

5 3. For the purpose of applying the extended term provisions of section 558.016 and 6 the minimum prison term provisions of section 558.019 and for determining the penalty for 7 attempts, offenses defined outside of this code shall be classified as follows:

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- (1) If the offense is a felony:

9 (a) It is a class A felony if the authorized penalty includes [death,] life imprisonment; 10 imprisonment for life without eligibility for probation, parole, or release except by act of 11 the governor; or imprisonment for a term of twenty years or more;

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

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12 (b) It is a class B felony if the maximum term of imprisonment authorized exceeds 13 ten years but is less than twenty years;

14 (c) It is a class C felony if the maximum term of imprisonment authorized is ten 15 years;

(d) It is a class D felony if the maximum term of imprisonment exceeds four years butis less than ten years;

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(2) If the offense is a misdemeanor:

20 (a) It is a class A misdemeanor if the authorized imprisonment exceeds six months in 21 jail;

(b) It is a class B misdemeanor if the authorized imprisonment exceeds thirty days butis not more than six months;

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(c) It is a class C misdemeanor if the authorized imprisonment is thirty days or less;

(e) It is a class E felony if the maximum term of imprisonment is four years or less;

(d) It is a class D misdemeanor if it includes a mental state as an element of theoffense and there is no authorized imprisonment;

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(e) It is an infraction if there is no authorized imprisonment.

565.004. 1. Each homicide offense [which] that is lawfully joined in the same 2 indictment or information together with any homicide offense or offense other than a homicide shall be charged together with such offense in separate counts. A count charging 3 4 any offense of homicide may only be charged and tried together with one or more counts of 5 any other homicide or offense other than a homicide as provided in subsection 2 of section 6 545.140. Except as provided in subsections 2[,] and 3[, and 4] of this section, no murder in 7 the first degree offense may be tried together with any offense other than murder in the first degree. In the event of a joinder of homicide offenses, all offenses charged which are 8 supported by the evidence in the case, together with all proper lesser offenses under section 9 565.029, shall, when requested by one of the parties or the court, be submitted to the jury or, 10 in a jury-waived trial, considered by the judge. 11

12 2. A count charging any offense of homicide of a particular individual may be joined 13 in an indictment or information and tried with one or more counts charging alternatively any other homicide or offense other than a homicide committed against that individual. The state 14 shall not be required to make an election as to the alternative count on which it will proceed. 15 This subsection in no way limits the right to try in the conjunctive, where they are properly 16 joined under subsection 1 of this section, either separate offenses other than murder in the 17 first degree or separate offenses of murder in the first degree committed against different 18 19 individuals.

3. When a defendant has been charged and proven before trial to be a prior offender
pursuant to chapter 558 so that the judge shall assess punishment and not a jury for an offense

other than murder in the first degree, that offense may be tried and submitted to the trier together with any murder in the first degree charge with which it is lawfully joined. In such case the judge will assess punishment on any offense joined with a murder in the first degree charge according to law and, when the trier is a jury, it shall be instructed upon punishment on the charge of murder in the first degree [in accordance with section 565.030.

When the state waives the death penalty for a murder first degree offense, that
offense may be tried and submitted to the trier together with any other charge with which it is
lawfully joined].

565.006. 1. At any time before the commencement of the trial of a homicide offense, the defendant may, with the assent of the court, waive a trial by jury and agree to submit all issues in the case to the court, whose finding shall have the force and effect of a verdict of a jury. Such a waiver must include a waiver of a trial by jury of all issues and offenses charged in the case, including the punishment to be assessed and imposed if the defendant is found guilty.

2. No defendant who pleads guilty to a homicide offense or who is found guilty of a
homicide offense after trial to the court without a jury shall be permitted a trial by jury on the
issue of the punishment to be imposed, except by agreement of the state.

3. [If a defendant is found guilty of murder in the first degree after a jury trial in
 which the state has not waived the death penalty, the defendant may not waive a jury trial of
 the issue of the punishment to be imposed, except by agreement with the state and the court.

4.] Any waiver of a jury trial and agreement permitted by this section shall be enteredin the court record.

565.020. 1. A person commits the offense of murder in the first degree if he or she 2 knowingly causes the death of another person after deliberation upon the matter.

2. The offense of murder in the first degree is a class A felony, and, if a person is eighteen years of age or older at the time of the offense, the punishment shall be [either death **or**] imprisonment for life without eligibility for probation [**or**], parole, or release except by act of the governor. If a person has not reached his or her eighteenth birthday at the time of the commission of the offense, the punishment shall be as provided under section 565.033.

565.040. 1. [In the event that the death penalty provided in this chapter is held to be unconstitutional,] Any person convicted of murder in the first degree shall be sentenced by the court to life imprisonment without eligibility for probation, parole, or release except by act of the governor[, with the exception that when a specific aggravating circumstance found in a case is held to be unconstitutional or invalid for another reason, the supreme court of Missouri is further authorized to remand the case for resentencing or retrial of the punishment pursuant to subsection 5 of section 565.035].

8 2. In [the event that] any case in which a death sentence has previously been 9 imposed pursuant to this chapter [is held to be unconstitutional,] but has not been executed, 10 the trial court [which] that previously sentenced the defendant to death shall cause the defendant to be brought before the court and shall sentence the defendant to life imprisonment 11 without eligibility for probation, parole, or release except by act of the governor[, with the 12 exception that when a specific aggravating circumstance found in a case is held to be 13 inapplicable, unconstitutional or invalid for another reason, the supreme court of Missouri is 14 further authorized to remand the case for retrial of the punishment pursuant to subsection 5 of 15 section 565.035]. 16

546.680. When judgment of death is rendered by any court of 2 competent jurisdiction, a warrant signed by the judge and attested by the clerk 3 under the seal of the court must be drawn and delivered to the sheriff. It must 4 state the conviction and judgment and appoint a day on which the judgment 5 must be executed, which must not be less than thirty nor more than sixty days 6 from the date of judgment, and must direct the sheriff to deliver the defendant, 7 at a time specified in said order, not more than ten days from the date of 8 judgment, to the chief administrative officer of a correctional facility of the 9 department of corrections, for execution.]

- 2 [546.690. The judge of a court at which a conviction is had must, 2 immediately after the conviction, transmit to the governor of the state, by mail 3 or otherwise, a statement of the conviction and judgment.]
- [546.700. Whenever, for any reason, any convict sentenced to the punishment of death shall not have been executed pursuant to such sentence, and the cause shall stand in full force, the supreme court, or the court of the county in which the conviction was had, on the application of the prosecuting attorney, shall issue a writ of habeas corpus to bring such convict before the court; or if he be at large, a warrant for his apprehension may be issued by such court, or any judge thereof.]

[546.710. Upon such convicted offender being brought before the court, they shall proceed to inquire into the facts, and if no legal reasons exist against the execution of sentence, such court shall issue a warrant to the director of the department of corrections, for the execution of the prisoner at the time therein specified, which execution shall be obeyed by the director accordingly.]

[546.720. 1. The manner of inflicting the punishment of death shall be
 by the administration of lethal gas or by means of the administration of lethal
 injection. And for such purpose the director of the department of corrections is
 hereby authorized and directed to provide a suitable and efficient room or
 place, enclosed from public view, within the walls of a correctional facility of
 the department of corrections, and the necessary appliances for carrying into

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execution the death penalty by means of the administration of lethal gas or by means of the administration of lethal injection.

9 2. The director of the department of corrections shall select an 10 execution team which shall consist of those persons who administer lethal gas 11 or lethal chemicals and those persons, such as medical personnel, who provide 12 direct support for the administration of lethal gas or lethal chemicals. The 13 identities of members of the execution team, as defined in the execution 14 protocol of the department of corrections, shall be kept confidential. 15 Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, any portion of a 16 record that could identify a person as being a current or former member of an 17 execution team shall be privileged and shall not be subject to discovery, 18 subpoena, or other means of legal compulsion for disclosure to any person or 19 entity, the remainder of such record shall not be privileged or closed unless 20 protected from disclosure by law. The section of an execution protocol that 21 directly relates to the administration of lethal gas or lethal chemicals is an open 22 record, the remainder of any execution protocol of the department of 23 corrections is a closed record. 24

3. A person may not, without the approval of the director of the department of corrections, knowingly disclose the identity of a current or former member of an execution team or disclose a record knowing that it could identify a person as being a current or former member of an execution team. Any person whose identity is disclosed in violation of this section shall:

29 (1) Have a civil cause of action against a person who violates this
 30 section;

(2) Be entitled to recover from any such person:

(a) Actual damages; and

(b) Punitive damages on a showing of a willful violation of this section.

35 4. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, if a member 36 of the execution team is licensed by a board or department, the licensing board 37 or department shall not eensure, reprimand, suspend, revoke, or take any other 38 disciplinary action against the person's license because of his or her 39 participation in a lawful execution. All members of the execution team are entitled to coverage under the state legal expense fund established by section 40 41 105.711 for conduct of such execution team member arising out of and 42 performed in connection with his or her official duties on behalf of the state or any agency of the state, provided that moneys in this fund shall not be 43 44 available for payment of claims under chapter 287.]

[546.730. A judgment of death must be executed within a correctional
 center of the department of corrections; and such execution shall be under the
 supervision and direction of the director of the department of corrections.]

[546.740. The chief administrative officer of the correctional center, or his duly appointed representative shall be present at the execution and the director of the department of corrections shall invite the presence of the attorney general of the state, and at least eight reputable citizens, to be selected by him; and he shall at the request of the defendant, permit such clergy or

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religious leaders, not exceeding two, as the defendant may name, and any
 person, other than another incarcerated offender, relatives or friends, not to
 exceed five, to be present at the execution, together with such peace officers as
 he may think expedient, to witness the execution; but no person under twenty one years of age shall be allowed to witness the execution.]

[546.750. After the execution the chief administrative officer of the
 correctional facility shall make a return upon the death warrant to the court by
 which the judgment was rendered, showing the time, mode and manner in
 which it was executed.]

[546.800. If, after any female convict shall be sentenced to the punishment of death, the officer having charge of her person shall have reason to suspect that she is pregnant, he shall in like manner summon a jury of six persons, not less than three of whom shall be physicians, and shall give notice thereof to the prosecuting attorney of the county where such criminal proceedings originated, or to the circuit attorney of the city of St. Louis, if such criminal proceedings originated in that city, who shall attend, and the proceedings shall be had as provided.]

[546.810. The inquisition shall be signed by the jury and the officer in charge of such convict, and if it appear that such female convict is pregnant with child, her execution shall be suspended and the inquisition shall be transmitted to the governor.]

[546.820. Whenever the governor shall be satisfied that the cause of such suspension no longer exists, he shall issue his warrant, appointing a day for the execution of such convict, pursuant to her sentence; or he may, at his discretion, commute her punishment to imprisonment in the penitentiary for life.]

[565.005. 1. At a reasonable time before the commencement of the first stage of any trial of murder in the first degree at which the death penalty is not waived, the state and defendant, upon request and without order of the court, shall serve counsel of the opposing party with:

(1) A list of all aggravating or mitigating circumstances as provided in subsection 1 of section 565.032, which the party intends to prove at the second stage of the trial;

(2) The names of all persons whom the party intends to call as witnesses at the second stage of the trial;

(3) Copies or locations and custodian of any books, papers, documents, photographs or objects which the party intends to offer at the second stage of the trial. If copies of such materials are not supplied to opposing counsel, the party shall cause them to be made available for inspection and copying without order of the court.

152. The disclosures required in subsection 1 of this section are16supplemental to those required by rules of the supreme court relating to a17continuing duty to disclose information, the use of matters disclosed, matters

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not subject to disclosure, protective orders, and sanctions for failure to comply 18 19 with an applicable discovery rule or order, all of which shall also apply to any 20 disclosure required by this section.]

[565.030. 1. Where murder in the first degree is charged but not submitted or where the state waives the death penalty, the submission to the trier and all subsequent proceedings in the case shall proceed as in all other criminal cases.

2. Where murder in the first degree is submitted to the trier without a waiver of the death penalty, the trial shall proceed in two stages before the same trier. At the first stage the trier shall decide only whether the defendant is guilty or not guilty of any submitted offense. The issue of punishment shall not be submitted to the trier at the first stage. If an offense is charged other 10 than murder in the first degree in a count together with a count of murder in the first degree, the trial judge shall assess punishment on any such offense according to law, after the defendant is found guilty of such offense and after he finds the defendant to be a prior offender pursuant to chapter 558.

14 3. If murder in the first degree is submitted and the death penalty was 15 not waived but the trier finds the defendant guilty of a lesser homicide, a 16 second stage of the trial shall proceed as in all other criminal cases. The 17 attorneys may then argue as in other criminal cases the issue of punishment, 18 after which the trier shall assess and declare the punishment as in all other 19 criminal cases.

20 4. If the trier at the first stage of a trial where the death penalty was not 21 waived finds the defendant guilty of murder in the first degree, a second stage 22 of the trial shall proceed at which the only issue shall be the punishment to be 23 assessed and declared. Evidence in aggravation and mitigation of punishment, 24 including but not limited to evidence supporting any of the aggravating or 25 mitigating circumstances listed in subsection 2 or 3 of section 565.032, may be 26 presented subject to the rules of evidence at criminal trials. Such evidence 27 may include, within the discretion of the court, evidence concerning the 28 murder victim and the impact of the offense upon the family of the victim and 29 others. Rebuttal and surrebuttal evidence may be presented. The state shall be 30 the first to proceed. If the trier is a jury it shall be instructed on the law. The 31 attorneys may then argue the issue of punishment to the jury, and the state shall 32 have the right to open and close the argument. The trier shall assess and 33 declare the punishment at life imprisonment without eligibility for probation, 34 parole, or release except by act of the governor:

(1) If the trier finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the defendant is intellectually disabled; or

(2) If the trier does not find beyond a reasonable doubt at least one of the statutory aggravating circumstances set out in subsection 2 of section 565.032: or

40 (3) If the trier concludes that there is evidence in mitigation of 41 punishment, including but not limited to evidence supporting the statutory 42 mitigating circumstances listed in subsection 3 of section 565.032, which is 43 sufficient to outweigh the evidence in aggravation of punishment found by the 44 trier; or

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45 (4) If the trier decides under all of the circumstances not to assess and 46 declare the punishment at death. If the trier is a jury it shall be so instructed.

48 If the trier assesses and declares the punishment at death it shall, in its findings 49 or verdict, set out in writing the aggravating circumstance or circumstances 50 listed in subsection 2 of section 565.032 which it found beyond a reasonable 51 doubt. If the trier is a jury it shall be instructed before the case is submitted 52 that if it is unable to decide or agree upon the punishment the court shall assess 53 and declare the punishment at life imprisonment without eligibility for 54 probation, parole, or release except by act of the governor or death. The court 55 shall follow the same procedure as set out in this section whenever it is 56 required to determine punishment for murder in the first degree.

57 5. Upon written agreement of the parties and with leave of the court,
 58 the issue of the defendant's intellectual disability may be taken up by the court
 59 and decided prior to trial without prejudicing the defendant's right to have the
 60 issue submitted to the trier of fact as provided in subsection 4 of this section.

61 6. As used in this section, the terms "intellectual disability" or 62 "intellectually disabled" refer to a condition involving substantial limitations 63 in general functioning characterized by significantly subaverage intellectual 64 functioning with continual extensive related deficits and limitations in two or 65 more adaptive behaviors such as communication, self-care, home living, social 66 skills, community use, self-direction, health and safety, functional academics, 67 leisure and work, which conditions are manifested and documented before 68 eighteen years of age.

69 7. The provisions of this section shall only govern offenses committed
 70 on or after August 28, 2001.]

[565.032. 1. In all cases of murder in the first degree for which the death penalty is authorized, the judge in a jury-waived trial shall consider, or shall include in his or her instructions to the jury for it to consider:

(1) Whether a statutory aggravating circumstance or circumstances enumerated in subsection 2 of this section is established by the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt; and

(2) If a statutory aggravating circumstance or circumstances is proven beyond a reasonable doubt, whether the evidence as a whole justifies a sentence of death or a sentence of life imprisonment without eligibility for probation, parole, or release except by act of the governor.

12 In determining the issues enumerated in subdivisions (1) and (2) of this 13 subsection, the trier shall consider all evidence which it finds to be in aggravation or mitigation of punishment, including evidence received during 14 15 the first stage of the trial and evidence supporting any of the statutory 16 aggravating or mitigating circumstances set out in subsections 2 and 3 of this 17 section. If the trier is a jury, it shall not be instructed upon any specific 18 evidence which may be in aggravation or mitigation of punishment, but shall 19 be instructed that each juror shall consider any evidence which he or she 20 considers to be aggravating or mitigating.

21 2. Statutory aggravating circumstances for a murder in the first degree 22 offense shall be limited to the following: 23 (1) The offense was committed by a person with a prior record of 24 conviction for murder in the first degree, or the offense was committed by a 25 person who has one or more serious assaultive criminal convictions; 26 (2) The murder in the first degree offense was committed while the 27 offender was engaged in the commission or attempted commission of another 28 unlawful homicide; 29 (3) The offender by his or her act of murder in the first degree 30 knowingly created a great risk of death to more than one person by means of a 31 weapon or device which would normally be hazardous to the lives of more 32 than one person; 33 (4) The offender committed the offense of murder in the first degree 34 for himself or herself or another, for the purpose of receiving money or any 35 other thing of monetary value from the victim of the murder or another; 36 (5) The murder in the first degree was committed against a judicial 37 officer, former judicial officer, prosecuting attorney or former prosecuting 38 attorney, circuit attorney or former circuit attorney, assistant prosecuting 39 attorney or former assistant prosecuting attorney, assistant circuit attorney or 40 former assistant circuit attorney, peace officer or former peace officer, elected 41 official or former elected official during or because of the exercise of his 42 official duty; 43 (6) The offender caused or directed another to commit murder in the 44 first degree or committed murder in the first degree as an agent or employee of 45 another person; 46 (7) The murder in the first degree was outrageously or wantonly vile, 47 horrible or inhuman in that it involved torture, or depravity of mind; 48 (8) The murder in the first degree was committed against any peace 49 officer, or fireman while engaged in the performance of his or her official duty; 50 (9) The murder in the first degree was committed by a person in, or 51 who has escaped from, the lawful custody of a peace officer or place of lawful 52 confinement: 53 (10) The murder in the first degree was committed for the purpose of 54 avoiding, interfering with, or preventing a lawful arrest or custody in a place of 55 lawful confinement, of himself or herself or another; 56 (11) The murder in the first degree was committed while the defendant 57 was engaged in the perpetration or was aiding or encouraging another person 58 to perpetrate or attempt to perpetrate a felony of any degree of rape, sodomy, 59 burglary, robbery, kidnapping, or any felony offense in chapter 195 or 579; 60 (12) The murdered individual was a witness or potential witness in any 61 past or pending investigation or past or pending prosecution, and was killed as 62 a result of his or her status as a witness or potential witness; 63 (13) The murdered individual was an employee of an institution or 64 facility of the department of corrections of this state or local correction agency 65 and was killed in the course of performing his or her official duties, or the 66 murdered individual was an inmate of such institution or facility; 67 (14) The murdered individual was killed as a result of the hijacking of 68 an airplane, train, ship, bus or other public conveyance;

69	(15) The murder was committed for the purpose of concealing or
70	attempting to conceal any felony offense defined in chapter 195 or 579;
71	(16) The murder was committed for the purpose of causing or
72	attempting to cause a person to refrain from initiating or aiding in the
73	prosecution of a felony offense defined in chapter 195 or 579;
74	(17) The murder was committed during the commission of an offense
75	which is part of a pattern of criminal street gang activity as defined in section
76	578.421.
77	3. Statutory mitigating circumstances shall include the following:
78	(1) The defendant has no significant history of prior criminal activity;
79	(2) The murder in the first degree was committed while the defendant
80	was under the influence of extreme mental or emotional disturbance;
81	(3) The victim was a participant in the defendant's conduct or
82	consented to the act;
83	(4) The defendant was an accomplice in the murder in the first degree
84	committed by another person and his or her participation was relatively minor;
85	(5) The defendant acted under extreme duress or under the substantial
86	domination of another person;
80 87	(6) The capacity of the defendant to appreciate the criminality of his or
88	her conduct or to conform his or her conduct to the requirements of law was
88 89	substantially impaired;
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90	(7) The age of the defendant at the time of the offense.]
	[565.025] 1. Whenever the death negative is improved in any age, and
2	[565.035. 1. Whenever the death penalty is imposed in any case, and
$\frac{2}{3}$	upon the judgment becoming final in the trial court, the sentence shall be
	reviewed on the record by the supreme court of Missouri. The circuit clerk of
4	the court trying the case, within ten days after receiving the transcript, shall
5	transmit the entire record and transcript to the supreme court together with a
6	notice prepared by the circuit clerk and a report prepared by the trial judge.
7	The notice shall set forth the title and docket number of the case, the name of
8	the defendant and the name and address of his attorney, a narrative statement
9	of the judgment, the offense, and the punishment prescribed. The report by the
10	judge shall be in the form of a standard questionnaire prepared and supplied by
11	the supreme court of Missouri.
12	2. The supreme court of Missouri shall consider the punishment as
13	well as any errors enumerated by way of appeal.
14	3. With regard to the sentence, the supreme court shall determine:
15	(1) Whether the sentence of death was imposed under the influence of
16	passion, prejudice, or any other arbitrary factor; and
17	(2) Whether the evidence supports the jury's or judge's finding of a
18	statutory aggravating circumstance as enumerated in subsection 2 of section
19	565.032 and any other circumstance found;
20	(3) Whether the sentence of death is excessive or disproportionate to
21	the penalty imposed in similar cases, considering both the offense, the strength
22	of the evidence and the defendant.
23	4. Both the defendant and the state shall have the right to submit briefs
24	within the time provided by the supreme court, and to present oral argument to
25	the supreme court.
<u> </u>	are supreme court.

26 5. The supreme court shall include in its decision a reference to those 27 similar cases which it took into consideration. In addition to its authority 28 regarding correction of errors, the supreme court, with regard to review of 29 death sentences, shall be authorized to:

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31 32 (1) Affirm the sentence of death; or

(2) Set the sentence aside and resentence the defendant to life imprisonment without eligibility for probation, parole, or release except by act of the governor; or

34 (3) Set the sentence aside and remand the case for retrial of the 35 punishment hearing. A new jury shall be selected or a jury may be waived by 36 agreement of both parties and then the punishment trial shall proceed in 37 accordance with this chapter, with the exception that the evidence of the guilty 38 verdict shall be admissible in the new trial together with the official transcript 39 of any testimony and evidence properly admitted in each stage of the original 40 trial where relevant to determine punishment.

41 6. There shall be an assistant to the supreme court, who shall be an 42 attorney appointed by the supreme court and who shall serve at the pleasure of 43 the court. The court shall accumulate the records of all cases in which the 44 sentence of death or life imprisonment without probation or parole was 45 imposed after May 26, 1977, or such earlier date as the court may deem 46 appropriate. The assistant shall provide the court with whatever extracted 47 information the court desires with respect thereto, including but not limited to 48 a synopsis or brief of the facts in the record concerning the offense and the 49 defendant. The court shall be authorized to employ an appropriate staff, 50 within the limits of appropriations made for that purpose, and such methods to 51 compile such data as are deemed by the supreme court to be appropriate and 52 relevant to the statutory questions concerning the validity of the sentence. The 53 office of the assistant to the supreme court shall be attached to the office of the 54 clerk of the supreme court for administrative purposes.

55 7. In addition to the mandatory sentence review, there shall be a right 56 of direct appeal of the conviction to the supreme court of Missouri. This right 57 of appeal may be waived by the defendant. If an appeal is taken, the appeal 58 and the sentence review shall be consolidated for consideration. The court 59 shall render its decision on legal errors enumerated, the factual substantiation 60 of the verdict, and the validity of the sentence.]

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