

HB 291 -- DEATH PENALTY

SPONSOR: Kelley

This bill changes the laws regarding the death penalty. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Authorizes the state to also use any other method of inflicting the punishment of death that is legally recognized in the United States;
- (2) Specifies that the Department of Corrections has the authority to determine the manner of inflicting the punishment of death, and it may take into consideration the defendant's wishes, if any, as to the manner utilized. If the manner of inflicting death is to be carried out by the administration of lethal gas or lethal injection, the department director must select an execution team as specified in the bill; and
- (3) Specifies that the General Assembly finds that the death penalty cannot be considered a cruel and unusual punishment and that a minimal amount of pain inflicted upon the defendant during the course of administering the death penalty is acceptable.