

**PUBLIC**

**AI Index: AMR 51/048/2003**

**26 March 2003**

**Further information on EXTRA 09/03 (AMR 51/017/2003, 10 February 2003) and follow-up (AMR 51/029/2003, 20 February 2003) - Death penalty**

**USA (Maryland)**

**Steven Howard Oken (m), white, aged 41**

---

On 18 March, the Maryland Senate voted by 24 votes to 23 to reject a bill to impose a moratorium on executions in the state, pending further study of racial and geographic bias in the capital justice system. If passed the moratorium would have lasted until 2005.

According to reports, all 14 of the Senate's Republicans voted against the moratorium, whilst all of the Senate's African American members voted for it.

As stated in the previous follow-up, Steven Howard Oken received an indefinite stay of execution from the Maryland Court of Appeals on 11 February 2003.

**No further action is requested at present. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.**

.