



**BILL NO:** House Bill 492  
**TITLE:** Courtroom Security - Minimum Adequate Security Standard  
**COMMITTEE:** Judiciary  
**HEARING DATE:** February 18, 2026  
**POSITION:** FAVORABLE

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The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) is the state domestic violence coalition that works to lead diverse community partners toward the common purpose of reducing the occurrence and impact of intimate partner violence. **MNADV urges the House Judicial Proceedings Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 492.**

House Bill 492 is a commonsense approach to increasing safety for all in the courtrooms. It would require, by July 1, 2027, that courthouses have a minimum of at least one court security officer in any courtroom conducting a family law, criminal law, or juvenile law proceeding. By July 1, 2029, the requirement would be to have at least one court security officer in every courtroom conducting proceedings.

While in our experience, if a lawyer makes a request to have security present for a Protection Order or other inherently high conflict case, the court will always at least seek to provide one. However, with increasing threats on judges, and the general changes in social mores and what is considered to be normal self-regulation of people, having a security officer in every courtroom makes sense. The appropriate budget should account for this personnel need.

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges a favorable report on HB 492.**