

HOUSE BILL 927

E3

4lr2218

By: **Delegate Attar**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2024

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Juvenile Law – Expedited Pretrial Status Hearing**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a magistrate for juvenile causes to determine a child’s pretrial
4 status within a certain period of time after a child is charged with a violation of
5 certain provisions of law; and generally relating to juvenile causes.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
8 Section 3–8A–13
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

13 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

14 3–8A–13.

15 (a) A petition shall allege that a child is either delinquent or in need of
16 supervision. If it alleges delinquency, it shall set forth in clear and simple language the
17 alleged facts which constitute the delinquency, and shall also specify the laws allegedly
18 violated by the child. If it alleges that the child is in need of supervision, the petition shall
19 set forth in clear and simple language the alleged facts supporting that allegation.

20 (b) Petitions alleging delinquency or violation of § 3–8A–30 of this subtitle shall
21 be prepared and filed by the State’s Attorney. A petition alleging delinquency shall be filed
22 within 30 days after the receipt of a referral from the intake officer, unless that time is
23 extended by the court for good cause shown. Petitions alleging that a child is in need of
24 supervision shall be filed by the intake officer.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (c) A peace order request shall be filed by the intake officer in accordance with §
2 3–8A–19.1(b)(1) of this subtitle or the State’s Attorney in accordance with § 3–8A–19.1(b)(2)
3 of this subtitle.

4 (d) The form of petitions, peace order requests, and all other pleadings under this
5 subtitle, and except as otherwise provided in this subtitle, the procedures to be followed by
6 the court under this subtitle, shall be as specified in the Maryland Rules.

7 (e) The State’s Attorney, upon assigning the reasons, may dismiss in open court
8 a petition alleging delinquency.

9 (f) (1) The court shall conduct all hearings under this subtitle in an informal
10 manner.

11 (2) In any proceeding in which a child is alleged to be in need of supervision
12 or to have committed a delinquent act that would be a misdemeanor if committed by an
13 adult or in a peace order proceeding, the court may exclude the general public from a
14 hearing, and admit only the victim and those persons having a direct interest in the
15 proceeding and their representatives.

16 (3) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, in a
17 case in which a child is alleged to have committed a delinquent act that would be a felony
18 if committed by an adult, the court shall conduct in open court any hearing or other
19 proceeding at which the child has a right to appear.

20 (ii) For good cause shown, the court may exclude the general public
21 from a hearing or other proceeding in a case in which a child is alleged to have committed
22 a delinquent act that would be a felony if committed by an adult and admit only the victim
23 and those persons having a direct interest in the proceeding and their representatives.

24 (4) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, the
25 court shall announce in open court adjudications and dispositions in cases where a child is
26 alleged to have committed a delinquent act which would be a felony if committed by an
27 adult.

28 (ii) For good cause shown, the court may exclude the general public
29 from a proceeding at which an adjudication or disposition is announced and admit only the
30 victim and those persons having a direct interest in the proceeding and their
31 representatives.

32 (5) Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, in a case in which
33 the victim of an alleged delinquent act is a child, on petition of the State’s Attorney, the
34 court shall exclude the general public from the testimony of the victim during a hearing or
35 other proceeding, including a proceeding at which an adjudication or disposition is
36 announced, and admit during the testimony of the victim only the victim and those persons
37 having a direct interest in the proceeding and their representatives, unless the court finds
38 good cause to receive the testimony of the victim in open court.

1 (g) The court shall try cases without a jury.

2 (h) (1) The court shall hear and rule on a petition seeking an order for
3 emergency medical treatment on an expedited basis.

4 (2) **WITHIN 24 HOURS AFTER A CHILD IS CHARGED WITH A VIOLATION**
5 **INVOLVING A CRIME OF VIOLENCE UNDER § 14-101 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW**
6 **ARTICLE, THE UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF A FIREARM UNDER § 5-133 OF THE**
7 **PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE, OR AN UNLAWFUL TAKING OR UNAUTHORIZED USE OF A**
8 **MOTOR VEHICLE UNDER § 7-105 OR § 7-203 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE, A**
9 **MAGISTRATE SHALL HOLD A HEARING TO DETERMINE THE CHILD'S PRETRIAL**
10 **STATUS.**

11 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
12 October 1, 2024.