

HOUSE BILL 852

Unofficial Copy  
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1998 Regular Session  
8r2551  
CF SB 300

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By: **Delegate Vallario**  
Introduced and read first time: February 12, 1998  
Assigned to: Judiciary

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Circuit Courts - District Court - Judges**

3 FOR the purpose of increasing the number of resident judges of the circuit court in  
4 certain judicial circuits; increasing the number of associate judges of the District  
5 Court in certain districts; and generally relating to the circuit courts and the  
6 District Court.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings  
9 Section 1-503 and 1-603  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (1995 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
13 Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings  
14 Section 1-602  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (1995 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

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

19 **Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

20 1-503.

21 (a) In each county in the first seven judicial circuits there shall be the number  
22 of resident judges of the circuit court set forth below, including the judge or judges  
23 provided for by the Constitution:

24	(1)	Allegany .....	2
25	(2)	Anne Arundel .....	10
26	(3)	Baltimore County.....	16

.....

1	(4)	Calvert.....	[2] 3
2	(5)	Caroline.....	1
3	(6)	Carroll.....	3
4	(7)	Charles .....	4
5	(8)	Cecil.....	3
6	(9)	Dorchester .....	1
7	(10)	Frederick .....	4
8	(11)	Garrett.....	1
9	(12)	Harford.....	5
10	(13)	Howard.....	5
11	(14)	Kent .....	1
12	(15)	Montgomery.....	17
13	(16)	Prince George's.....	[21] 23
14	(17)	Queen Anne's.....	1
15	(18)	St. Mary's .....	[2] 3
16	(19)	Somerset.....	1
17	(20)	Talbot.....	1
18	(21)	Washington.....	[4] 5
19	(22)	Wicomico.....	3
20	(23)	Worcester .....	2

21 (b) In Baltimore City there shall be 30 resident judges of the Circuit Court for  
22 Baltimore City.

23 1-602.

24 For the purposes of operation and administration of the District Court, the State  
25 is divided into the following districts:

- 26 (1) District 1 -- Baltimore City.
- 27 (2) District 2 -- Dorchester, Wicomico, Somerset, and Worcester  
28 Counties.

- 1 (3) District 3 -- Caroline, Talbot, Queen Anne's, Kent, and Cecil  
 2 Counties.
- 3 (4) District 4 -- Charles, St. Mary's, and Calvert Counties.
- 4 (5) District 5 -- Prince George's County.
- 5 (6) District 6 -- Montgomery County.
- 6 (7) District 7 -- Anne Arundel County.
- 7 (8) District 8 -- Baltimore County.
- 8 (9) District 9 -- Harford County.
- 9 (10) District 10 -- Howard and Carroll Counties.
- 10 (11) District 11 -- Frederick and Washington Counties.
- 11 (12) District 12 -- Allegany and Garrett Counties.

12 1-603.

13 (a) The court is composed of a Chief Judge and the number of associate judges  
 14 provided for in subsection (b) of this section. If the Chief Judge is relieved of his duties  
 15 as Chief Judge but not removed from office as a judge of the District Court, he shall  
 16 serve for the remainder of his term of office as a District Court judge, as a resident  
 17 judge of his district and county of residence, without reference to the maximum  
 18 number of judges for that district prescribed in subsection (b).

19 (b) In each of the districts provided for in § 1-602 of this subtitle, there shall  
 20 be the following number of associate judges of the District Court:

- 21 (1) District 1 -- [24] 26
- 22 (2) District 2 -- 5, two to be appointed from Wicomico County
- 23 (3) District 3 -- 6, two to be appointed from Cecil County
- 24 (4) District 4 -- 4, two to be appointed from Charles County
- 25 (5) District 5 -- [12] 13
- 26 (6) District 6 -- [12] 13
- 27 (7) District 7 -- 8
- 28 (8) District 8 -- 13
- 29 (9) District 9 -- 4

1           (10)     District 10 -- [6] 7, two to be appointed from Carroll County and  
2 [four] FIVE to be appointed from Howard County

3           (11)     District 11 -- [4] 5, [two] THREE to be appointed from Frederick  
4 County and two to be appointed from Washington County

5           (12)     District 12 -- 3, two to be appointed from Allegany County

6     (c)     In each district comprising more than one county, there shall be at least  
7 one District Court judge resident and holding court in each county in the district.

8     (d)     To assure that the services of the District Court are readily and practicably  
9 available in all areas of District 8, subject to the time limits contained in this  
10 subsection, and to assure that these services are provided to all citizens of District 8  
11 with a minimum of inconvenience and a maximum of availability, there shall be a  
12 court facility physically located in each of the following areas of that district, and at  
13 least one judge shall sit regularly in each location:

14           (1)     The Towson area;

15           (2)     The Catonsville area;

16           (3)     The Dundalk area until June 30, 1999;

17           (4)     The Essex area; and

18           (5)     The Owings Mills area until June 30, 1999.

19     SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
20 October 1, 1998.