
By: **Delegate Dembrow**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 1999

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **District Court - Pilot Project for Testimony by Electronic Means**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Chief Judge of the District Court to establish a
4 pilot project for the presentation of testimony of a witness from any location by
5 electronic means in accordance with certain rules in proceedings for
6 nonincarcerable offenses before the District Court; allowing the Chief Judge to
7 designate one or more districts to participate in the pilot project; providing for
8 the application of this Act; and generally relating to a pilot project for the
9 presentation of testimony of a witness from any location by electronic means in
10 proceedings for nonincarcerable offenses before the District Court.

11 BY adding to

12 Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings

13 Section 6-410

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (1998 Replacement Volume)

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

18 **Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

19 6-410.

20 (A) THE CHIEF JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT MAY DESIGNATE ONE OR
21 MORE DISTRICTS TO PARTICIPATE IN A PILOT PROJECT TO TEST THE EFFICACY OF
22 PRESENTING TESTIMONY OF WITNESSES ELECTRONICALLY:

23 (1) IN A PROCEEDING IN DISTRICT COURT FOR ANY OFFENSE THAT
24 DOES NOT SUBJECT THE DEFENDANT TO IMPRISONMENT; AND

25 (2) IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULES ADOPTED BY THE COURT OF APPEALS.

26 (B) TYPES OF ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION ALLOWED UNDER THIS SECTION
27 INCLUDE:

- 1 (1) ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF AUDIO;
- 2 (2) ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF AUDIO AND VIDEO; AND
- 3 (3) A DEPOSITION PRERECORDED USING ELECTRONIC AUDIO AND
4 VIDEO MEANS.

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be
6 construed only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect
7 on or application to cases filed before the effective date of this Act.

8 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
9 October 1, 1999.