

# SENATE BILL 508

D1, D3

7lr1818  
CF 7lr1684

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By: **Senator Zirkin**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2007

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Circuit Courts – Medical Liability Division**

3 FOR the purpose of stating the intent of the General Assembly that medical liability  
4 matters be treated in a certain manner in the judicial system, that a medical  
5 liability division be established in certain circuit courts, and that medical  
6 liability division judges have certain experience or training; authorizing the  
7 Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals to establish a medical liability division in  
8 certain circuit courts; requiring the Chief Judge to consult with the county  
9 administrative judge before establishing a medical liability division in a circuit  
10 court; requiring a medical liability division judge to devote full time and  
11 attention to certain matters; requiring the Chief Judge or the Chief Judge's  
12 designee to assess the effectiveness of the divisions and report findings to the  
13 Governor and General Assembly; and generally relating to the establishment of  
14 medical liability divisions in the circuit courts.

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
16 MARYLAND, That:

17 (a) It is the intent of the General Assembly that:

18 (1) Medical liability matters shall be treated efficiently, equitably, and  
19 effectively in the judicial system;

20 (2) In order to enable the circuit courts to handle medical liability  
21 matters in the most coordinated, efficient, and responsive manner, the Chief Judge of  
22 the Court of Appeals shall utilize judicial resources to establish a medical liability

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 division in circuit courts throughout the State to afford convenient access to lawyers  
2 and litigants involved in matters under the jurisdiction of the division; and

3 (3) The judges of a medical liability division shall have special  
4 experience or training in medical liability matters and an understanding of the issues  
5 likely to come before the division.

6 (b) (1) The Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals may establish a medical  
7 liability division in each circuit court where the creation of a division is feasible.

8 (2) The Chief Judge shall consult with the administrative judge of the  
9 county before establishing a medical liability division in a circuit court.

10 (c) Unless the administration of justice requires otherwise, a judge presiding  
11 in the medical liability division of a circuit court shall devote full time and attention to  
12 matters under the jurisdiction of the division.

13 (d) The Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, or the Chief Judge's designee,  
14 shall assess the effectiveness of the medical liability divisions in improving the  
15 expeditious, equitable, and efficient resolution of cases, and shall report the findings to  
16 the Governor and, subject to § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General  
17 Assembly on or before December 1, 2010.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
19 October 1, 2007.