

# CHAPTER 178

(Senate Bill 685)

AN ACT concerning

**Cecil County Criminal Procedure - Pretrial Release - Use of Technology to Facilitate Pretrial Release Process Posting of Bond Without Appearance of Defendant**

FOR the purpose of allowing ~~the use of video conferencing technology to facilitate the pretrial release process~~ a defendant to post bond by means of electronic transmission or hand delivery of certain documentation without appearing before the commissioner or judge under certain circumstances if authorized by the County Administrative Judge or the ~~District Administrative Judge~~, ~~requiring certain documents to be delivered to the appropriate court immediately after a certain proceeding~~ Chief Judge of the District Court; and generally relating to the pretrial release process.

BY adding to

Article - Criminal Procedure  
Section 5-214  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2001 Volume and 2006 Supplement)

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

**Article - Criminal Procedure**

**5-214.**

~~(A) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY IN CECIL COUNTY.~~

~~(B) VIDEO CONFERENCING PROCEDURES AND TECHNOLOGY MAY BE USED TO FACILITATE THE PRETRIAL RELEASE PROCESS~~ NOTWITHSTANDING MARYLAND RULE 4-217(G), AFTER A DEFENDANT HAS APPEARED IN PERSON BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER OR JUDGE IN A CASE, THE DEFENDANT MAY POST BOND BY MEANS OF ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OR HAND DELIVERY OF THE RELEVANT DOCUMENTATION WITHOUT APPEARING BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER OR JUDGE, IF AUTHORIZED BY:

**(1) IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE; AND**

**(2) IN THE DISTRICT ~~COUNT~~ COURT, THE ~~DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE~~ CHIEF JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT.**

**~~(C) IMMEDIATELY AFTER A PROCEEDING CONDUCTED THROUGH VIDEO CONFERENCING, ALL DOCUMENTS THAT ARE NOT A PART OF THE COURT FILE AND THAT WOULD BE A PART OF THE FILE IF THE PROCEEDING HAD BEEN CONDUCTED AT THE COURT SHALL BE ELECTRONICALLY TRANSMITTED OR HAND DELIVERED TO THE APPROPRIATE COURT.~~**

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

**Approved by the Governor, April 24, 2007.**