

Chapter 34

(Senate Bill 239)

AN ACT concerning

Judgeships – Court of Special Appeals, Circuit Courts, and District Court

FOR the purpose of altering the number of judges of the Court of Special Appeals; altering the number of resident judges of the circuit court in certain judicial circuits; altering the number of associate judges of the District Court in certain districts; altering the number of District Court judges to be appointed from a certain county; and generally relating to judgeships in certain courts.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
Section 1–402, 1–503, and 1–603
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2006 Replacement Volume and 2012 Supplement)

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

Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

1–402.

(a) The Court of Special Appeals consists of [13] **15** judges, one of whom shall be designated by the Governor as Chief Judge.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the judges of the Court of Special Appeals shall be selected, appointed, retained, removed from office, or retired as provided in Article IV of the Maryland Constitution with respect to judges of the Court of Appeals. One judge of the Court of Special Appeals shall be a resident respectively of each of the appellate judicial circuits defined in Article IV, § 14 of the Maryland Constitution. When election to judicial office is required by the Constitution, each of these judges shall be elected by the qualified voters of his circuit of residence. The remaining judges of the Court of Special Appeals may be residents of any part of the State and, when election to judicial office is required by the Constitution, shall be elected by the qualified voters of the entire State. The term of a judge of the Court of Special Appeals begins on the date of his qualification for office.

1–503.

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

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

(22) Wicomico [3] 4

(23) Worcester 3

(b) In Baltimore City there shall be 33 resident judges of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City.

1-603.

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

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

- (1) District 1 — [27] **28**
- (2) District 2 — 6, two to be appointed from Wicomico County and two to be appointed from Worcester County
- (3) District 3 — 6, two to be appointed from Cecil County
- (4) District 4 — [5] **6**, two to be appointed from Calvert County and [two] **THREE** to be appointed from Charles County
- (5) District 5 — [15] **16**
- (6) District 6 — [11] **12**
- (7) District 7 — 9
- (8) District 8 — 13
- (9) District 9 — 4
- (10) District 10 — 7, two to be appointed from Carroll County and five to be appointed from Howard County
- (11) District 11 — 5, three to be appointed from Frederick County and two to be appointed from Washington County

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

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

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

- (1) The Towson area;
- (2) The Catonsville area; and
- (3) The Essex area.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2013.

Approved by the Governor, April 9, 2013.