

HOUSE BILL 786

D1

5lr2309
CF SB 629

By: **Chair, Judiciary Committee (By Request – Maryland Judiciary) and Delegates Arian, Bouchat, Conaway, Crutchfield, Embry, Kaufman, Phillips, Taylor, Toles, Sample–Hughes, Schmidt, Simmons, Simpson, and Williams**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2025

Assigned to: Judiciary

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 22, 2025

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Appellate Court of Maryland – Sessions at Educational Institutions**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Appellate Court of Maryland to hold sessions at certain
4 secondary and postsecondary educational institutions in the State under certain
5 circumstances; and generally relating to the Appellate Court of Maryland sessions.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
8 Section 1–403
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

13 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

14 1–403.

15 (a) (1) Except as provided in ~~paragraph (2)~~ **PARAGRAPHS (2) AND (3)** of this
16 subsection, the Appellate Court of Maryland shall hold its sessions in the City of Annapolis
17 at the time or times it prescribes by rule.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



(2) As designated by the Chief Judge of the Appellate Court of Maryland, in conjunction with the deans of the University of Maryland School of Law and the University of Baltimore School of Law, the Appellate Court of Maryland may hold sessions at the University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus and the University of Baltimore.

(3) AS DESIGNATED BY THE CHIEF JUDGE OF THE APPELLATE COURT OF MARYLAND, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ADMINISTRATIONS OF SECONDARY AND POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE STATE, THE APPELLATE COURT OF MARYLAND MAY HOLD SESSIONS AT SECONDARY AND POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE STATE.

~~[(3)]~~ (4) Its sessions shall continue not less than ten months in each year, if the business before it so requires.

(b) A case before the Appellate Court of Maryland shall be heard by a panel of not less than three judges. The panels shall be constituted, sit at the times, and hear the cases as directed by the Chief Judge from time to time. A quorum of a panel consists of one less than the number of judges designated to sit on the panel. The concurrence of a majority of a panel is necessary for the decision of a case.

(c) A hearing or rehearing before the court in banc may be ordered in any case by a majority of the incumbent judges of the court. Six judges of the court constitute a quorum of the court in banc. The concurrence of a majority of the incumbent judges of the entire court is necessary for decision of a case heard or reheard by the court in banc.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2025.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.