

HOUSE BILL 789

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5lr2306
CF SB 621

By: **Chair, Judiciary Committee (By Request – Maryland Judiciary)**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2025

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Courtroom Security – Minimum Adequate Security Standard**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing minimum adequate security standards for courtroom
4 security at all courthouse facilities; and generally relating to courtroom security.

5 BY adding to

6 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

7 Section 1–206

8 Annotated Code of Maryland

9 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

12 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

13 **1–206.**

14 **(A) THERE IS A MINIMUM ADEQUATE SECURITY STANDARD FOR**
15 **COURTROOM SECURITY AT ALL COURTHOUSE FACILITIES IN THE STATE.**

16 **(B) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, A COURT SECURITY OFFICER MUST**
17 **MEET THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR A SPECIAL POLICE OFFICER, AS DEFINED IN §**
18 **3–301 OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE.**

19 **(C) BEGINNING JULY 1, 2026, THERE SHALL BE PRESENT IN EVERY**
20 **COURTROOM DURING PROCEEDINGS AT LEAST:**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(1) ONE COURT SECURITY OFFICER FOR ANY CRIMINAL, FAMILY, OR**
2 **JUVENILE PROCEEDING;**

3 **(2) TWO COURT SECURITY OFFICERS FOR ANY PROCEEDING**
4 **INVOLVING AN INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL OR AN INDIVIDUAL WHO MAY BE**
5 **REMANDED TO CUSTODY AS A RESULT OF THE PROCEEDING; AND**

6 **(3) ONE ADDITIONAL COURT SECURITY OFFICER FOR EVERY FOUR OR**
7 **FEWER COURTROOMS ON EACH FLOOR OF A COURTHOUSE.**

8 **(D) BEGINNING JULY 1, 2028, THERE SHALL BE PRESENT IN EVERY**
9 **COURTROOM DURING PROCEEDINGS AT LEAST:**

10 **(1) ONE COURT SECURITY OFFICER FOR ANY PROCEEDING;**

11 **(2) TWO COURT SECURITY OFFICERS FOR ANY PROCEEDING**
12 **INVOLVING AN INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL OR AN INDIVIDUAL WHO MAY BE**
13 **REMANDED TO CUSTODY AS A RESULT OF THE PROCEEDING; AND**

14 **(3) ONE ADDITIONAL COURT SECURITY OFFICER FOR EVERY FOUR OR**
15 **FEWER COURTROOMS ON EACH FLOOR OF A COURTHOUSE.**

16 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before September 30,
17 2025, each law enforcement agency, department, or entity providing security at a
18 courthouse facility shall submit a report to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of
19 Maryland and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General
20 Assembly identifying:

21 (1) the current number of court security officers available to provide
22 courthouse security;

23 (2) the minimum number of court security officers necessary to meet the
24 minimum adequate security standards, accounting for annual leave and absences;

25 (3) the current number of courthouse security positions for which funding
26 has been allocated;

27 (4) the current number of vacancies in the agency, department, or entity;

28 (5) a viable plan to meet the minimum adequate security standards under
29 Section 1 of this Act; and

30 (6) any obstacles to the agency, department, or entity meeting those
31 minimum adequate security standards.

1 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
2 1, 2025.