

# HOUSE BILL 1440

D1

5lr2007

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By: **Delegate R. Lewis**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2025

Assigned to: Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Courts – Parental Accommodations**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring certain circuit courthouses in the State to maintain on the  
4 premises a private lactation room to be used by certain individuals; providing that  
5 breast-feeding mothers and certain individuals caring for children under a certain  
6 age may be excused from jury service; and generally relating to excusal from jury  
7 service.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

10 Section 1–505

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

14 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

15 Section 8–402

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

19 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

20 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

21 **1–505.**

22 (A) THIS SECTION APPLIES TO A CIRCUIT COURTHOUSE THAT IS  
23 CONSTRUCTED OR UNDERGOES A MAJOR RENOVATION PROJECT ON OR AFTER  
24 OCTOBER 1, 2025.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(B) A CIRCUIT COURTHOUSE SHALL MAINTAIN ON ITS PREMISES A PRIVATE**  
2 **LACTATION ROOM THAT MAY BE USED BY EMPLOYEES OF THE COURT AND MEMBERS**  
3 **OF THE PUBLIC TO NURSE AND EXPRESS BREAST MILK.**

4           **(C) THE LACTATION ROOM REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL**  
5 **INCLUDE:**

6                   **(1) A CHAIR WITH A TABLE AND ELECTRICAL OUTLET NEARBY TO**  
7 **ACCOMMODATE PLACEMENT OF A BREAST PUMP DEVICE;**

8                   **(2) A DOOR THAT MAY BE LOCKED FROM THE INSIDE;**

9                   **(3) A SINK; AND**

10                  **(4) A REFRIGERATOR.**

11 8-402.

12           (a) Subject to the requirements of this section, a jury judge or, if a county's jury  
13 plan allows, its jury commissioner may disqualify, excuse, or exempt an individual who is  
14 summoned for jury service or reschedule jury service.

15           (b) An individual may be disqualified only on the basis of information provided  
16 on a juror questionnaire or during an interview or other competent evidence.

17           (c) (1) To be excused, an individual shall show, on a juror questionnaire,  
18 during an interview, or by other competent evidence, that **[extreme]**:

19                   **(I) EXTREME** inconvenience, public necessity, or undue hardship  
20 requires excusal;

21                   **(II) THE INDIVIDUAL IS A BREAST-FEEDING MOTHER; OR**

22                   **(III) THE INDIVIDUAL HAS LEGAL CUSTODY OF AND IS**  
23 **PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR A CHILD UNDER THE AGE OF 4 YEARS REQUIRING**  
24 **CONTINUOUS CARE BY THE INDIVIDUAL DURING NORMAL COURT HOURS.**

25           (2) An individual may be excused:

26                   (i) Only for the period that the jury judge or jury commissioner  
27 considers necessary; and

28                   (ii) Not more than twice unless the jury judge finds that the  
29 individual has shown an extraordinary circumstance that requires an additional excuse.

1                   (3)     When the period set under this subsection expires, a jury commissioner  
2 again shall summon the individual for jury service.

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