

HOUSE BILL 1440

D1

5lr2007

By: ~~Delegate R. Lewis~~ Delegates R. Lewis, Arikan, Conaway, Kaufman, Simmons, Stinnett, Taylor, and Williams

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2025

Assigned to: Judiciary

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted with floor amendments

Read second time: March 1, 2025

CHAPTER _____

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; requiring the Maryland Judiciary to collect
7 and report certain information relating to jury service excusals; and generally
8 relating to excusal from jury service.

9 BY adding to

10 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
11 Section 1–505
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

15 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
16 Section 8–101 and 8–402
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

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.



Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

1-505.

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

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

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

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

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

(3) A SINK; AND

(4) A REFRIGERATOR.

8-101.

(a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

(B) “BREAST-FEEDING MOTHER” MEANS A MOTHER WHO IS FEEDING HER CHILD BREAST MILK, EITHER DIRECTLY FROM HER BREAST OR BY EXPRESSING AND BOTTLE-FEEDING THE CHILD.

~~[(b)]~~ (C) (1) “Jury commissioner” means an individual who is designated under a jury plan to manage jury selection and service.

(2) “Jury commissioner” includes an acting jury commissioner who is designated in accordance with a jury plan.

~~[(c)]~~ (D) “Jury plan” means a plan that the circuit court for a county adopts under this title to govern jury selection and service for the county.

~~[(d)]~~ (E) “Prospective juror” means an individual whose name is selected from a source pool but who has not yet been screened for disqualification, excusal, or exemption.

1 ~~[(e)]~~ **(F)** “Qualified juror” means an individual who, after selection as a
2 prospective juror, is not disqualified, excused, or exempted.

3 ~~[(f)]~~ **(G)** “Source pool” means a pool from which the name of each prospective
4 juror is to be selected as provided under a jury plan.

5 8–402.

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

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

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

13 **(I) EXTREME** inconvenience, public necessity, or undue hardship
14 requires excusal;

15 **(II) THE INDIVIDUAL IS A BREAST–FEEDING MOTHER; OR**

16 **(III) THE INDIVIDUAL HAS LEGAL CUSTODY OF AND IS**
17 **PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR A CHILD UNDER THE AGE OF 4 3 YEARS REQUIRING**
18 **CONTINUOUS CARE BY THE INDIVIDUAL DURING NORMAL COURT HOURS.**

19 **(2) A JURY JUDGE OR JURY COMMISSIONER MAY, BUT IS NOT**
20 **REQUIRED TO, EXCUSE AN INDIVIDUAL UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)(II) OR (III) OF THIS**
21 **SUBSECTION.**

22 **(3)** An individual may be excused:

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

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

27 ~~(3)~~ **(4)** When the period set under this subsection expires, a jury
28 commissioner again shall summon the individual for jury service.

29 **(D) (1) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2025, AND EACH DECEMBER 31**
30 **THEREAFTER, THE MARYLAND JUDICIARY SHALL COLLECT AND, IN ACCORDANCE**

1 WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, REPORT TO THE GENERAL
2 ASSEMBLY THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FOR THE PRECEDING CALENDAR YEAR:

3 (I) THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS REQUESTING TO BE
4 EXCUSED FOR JURY DUTY UNDER SUBSECTION (C)(1) OF THIS SECTION; AND

5 (II) THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS GRANTED OR DENIED AN
6 EXCUSAL UNDER SUBSECTION (C)(1) OF THIS SECTION.

7 (2) THE INFORMATION REPORTED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS
8 SUBSECTION SHALL BE DISAGGREGATED BY:

9 (I) JURISDICTION;

10 (II) THE TYPE OF EXCUSAL REQUESTED UNDER SUBSECTION
11 (C)(1) OF THIS SECTION; AND

12 (III) WHETHER THE EXCUSAL REQUEST WAS GRANTED OR
13 DENIED.

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

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.