

# SENATE BILL 621

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CF HB 789

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

Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2025

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 25, 2025

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

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~~ requiring each law enforcement agency,  
5 department, or entity providing security at a courthouse facility to submit a certain  
6 report; and generally relating to courtroom security.

7 ~~BY adding to~~

8 ~~Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings~~

9 ~~Section 1–206~~

10 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~

11 ~~(2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)~~

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

13 ~~That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:~~

14 ~~Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings~~

15 ~~1–206.~~

16 ~~(A) THERE IS A MINIMUM ADEQUATE SECURITY STANDARD FOR~~

17 ~~COURTROOM SECURITY AT ALL COURTHOUSE FACILITIES IN THE STATE.~~

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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.



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

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

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

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

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

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

~~(1) ONE COURT SECURITY OFFICER FOR ANY PROCEEDING;~~

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

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

~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED~~ SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That, on or before September 30, 2025, each law enforcement agency, department, or entity providing security at a courthouse facility shall submit a report to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland ~~and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly~~ identifying:

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

(2) the minimum number of court security officers necessary to meet the minimum adequate security standards, accounting for annual leave and absences, sufficient to ensure that:

(i) all court security officers meet the standards for a special police officer under Title 3, Subtitle 3 of the Public Safety Article;

(ii) at least one court security officer is present for each court proceeding;

(iii) at least two court security officers are present for each court proceeding at which an individual who is or may be incarcerated is present; and

(iv) there is at least one additional court security officer for every four courtrooms on each floor of a courthouse;

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

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

(5) a viable plan to meet the minimum adequate security standards ~~under Section 1 of this Act~~ identified under item (2) of this Section; and

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

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

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.