

Chapter 141

(Senate Bill 621)

AN ACT concerning

Courtroom Security – Minimum Adequate Security ~~Standard~~

FOR the purpose of ~~establishing minimum adequate security standards for courtroom security at all courthouse facilities~~ requiring each law enforcement agency, department, or entity providing security at a courthouse facility to submit a certain report; and generally relating to courtroom security.

~~BY adding to~~~~Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings~~~~Section 1–206~~~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~~~(2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)~~

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

~~**Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**~~~~**1–206.**~~

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

~~(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 by the Governor, April 22, 2025.