

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2025 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 621

(Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee)(By Request -
Maryland Judiciary)

Judicial Proceedings

Judiciary

Courtroom Security - Minimum Adequate Security

This bill requires that, by September 30, 2025, each law enforcement agency, department, or entity providing security at a courthouse facility submit a report to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland on specified information related to courthouse security. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The Judiciary can handle the bill's reporting requirements with existing budgeted resources. No effect on revenues.

Local Effect: Local entities can handle the bill's reporting requirements with existing budgeted resources. No effect on revenues.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: By September 30, 2025, each law enforcement agency, department, or entity providing security at a courthouse facility must submit a report to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland identifying:

- the current number of court security officers available to provide courthouse security;

- 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 (1) all court security officers meet the standards for a special police officer under Title 3, Subtitle 3 of the Public Safety Article; (2) at least one court security officer is present for each court proceeding; (3) 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 (4) there is at least one additional court security officer for every four courtrooms on each floor of a courthouse;
- the current number of courthouse security positions for which funding has been allocated;
- the current number of vacancies in the agency, department, or entity;
- a viable plan to meet the minimum adequate security standards, as specified above; and
- any obstacles to the agency, department, or entity meeting those minimum adequate security standards.

Current Law/Background: There are no minimum adequate security standards for courtroom security specified in statute. The Judiciary is responsible for the security of the Supreme Court of Maryland, the Appellate Court of Maryland, and the District Court of Maryland. Local jurisdictions are generally responsible for providing security in the circuit courts, including the orphans' courts, through the sheriffs' offices.

Chapters 414 and 415 of 2024 (Judge Andrew F. Wilkinson Judicial Security Act) created the Task Force to Ensure the Safety of Judicial Facilities, staffed by the Administrative Office of the Courts, to, among other things, identify (1) minimum requirements for courthouse safety, including the minimum number of security officers to be present in each type of judicial proceeding in a circuit court or in the District Court and (2) minimum qualifications for security officers. Also, the task force was required to develop a legislative proposal to ensure that the minimum standards are met. In December 2024, the task force issued its [report](#).

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: HB 789 (Chair, Judiciary Committee)(By Request - Maryland Judiciary) - Judiciary.

Information Source(s): Baltimore, Frederick, Garrett, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, and St. Mary's counties; Maryland Association of Counties; Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 12, 2025
caw/jkb Third Reader - March 24, 2025
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