

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2025 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

Senate Bill 629

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

Judicial Proceedings

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**Appellate Court of Maryland - Sessions at Educational Institutions**

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This bill authorizes the Appellate Court of Maryland to hold sessions at secondary and postsecondary educational institutions in the State, as designated by the Chief Judge of the Appellate Court of Maryland in conjunction with the administrations of secondary and postsecondary educational institutions.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances.

**Local Effect:** The bill does not materially affect local government operations or finances.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law/Background:** Generally, the Appellate Court of Maryland must hold its sessions in the City of Annapolis. However, statute authorizes the court to hold sessions at the University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus and the University of Baltimore, as designated by the Chief Judge of the Appellate Court of Maryland in conjunction with the deans of the University of Maryland School of Law and the University of Baltimore School of Law.

Article IV, § 14 of the Constitution of Maryland requires the Supreme Court of Maryland to hold its sessions in the City of Annapolis, but further provides that the court may temporarily “transfer their sittings elsewhere upon sufficient cause.” Accordingly, an

Amended Administrative [Order](#) (dated November 16, 2023) authorizes the Supreme Court of Maryland, beginning with the September 2023 term, to temporarily transfer up to two days of oral arguments per term to a secondary or postsecondary educational institution in the State to, among other things, promote public understanding of the court and provide educational benefits to students, faculty, and community members who are able to attend oral arguments.

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### **Additional Information**

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

**Designated Cross File:** HB 786 (Chair, Judiciary Committee)(By Request - Maryland Judiciary) - Judiciary.

**Information Source(s):** Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Anne Arundel County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 10, 2025  
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