

Chapter 476

(Senate Bill 544)

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; 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 2025 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 THE 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, 2027, DURING COURT PROCEEDINGS, ANY ENTITY RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING COURTHOUSE SECURITY SHALL USE BEST EFFORTS TO HAVE PRESENT A MINIMUM OF:

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

(2) TWO COURT SECURITY OFFICERS IN EACH COURTROOM 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, 2029, DURING COURT PROCEEDINGS, ANY ENTITY RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING COURTHOUSE SECURITY SHALL USE BEST EFFORTS TO HAVE PRESENT A MINIMUM OF:

(1) ONE COURT SECURITY OFFICER IN EACH COURTROOM FOR ANY TYPE OF PROCEEDING;

(2) TWO COURT SECURITY OFFICERS IN EACH COURTROOM FOR ANY PROCEEDING INVOLVING AN INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL OR ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO MAY BE REMANDED INTO 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, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2026.

Approved by the Governor, May 12, 2026.