

HOUSE BILL 361

D2
HB 975/25 – JUD

6lr1350
CF 6lr1348

By: **Delegates Arentz, Ghrist, and Jacobs**
Introduced and read first time: January 19, 2026
Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

Queen Anne's County – Circuit Court Judgeships

3 FOR the purpose of increasing the number of resident judges of the Circuit Court for Queen
4 Anne's County; and generally relating to circuit court judgeships in Queen Anne's
5 County.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
7 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
8 Section 1–501
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
13 Section 1–503
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

19 1–501.

20 The circuit courts are the highest common–law and equity courts of record exercising
21 original jurisdiction within the State. Each has full common–law and equity powers and
22 jurisdiction in all civil and criminal cases within its county, and all the additional powers
23 and jurisdiction conferred by the Constitution and by law, except where by law jurisdiction
24 has been limited or conferred exclusively upon another tribunal.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 1-503.

2 (a) In each county in the first seven judicial circuits there shall be the number of
3 resident judges of the circuit court set forth below, including the judge or judges provided
4 for by the Constitution:

5	(1)	Allegany.....	2
6	(2)	Anne Arundel	13
7	(3)	Baltimore County.....	21
8	(4)	Calvert.....	3
9	(5)	Caroline	1
10	(6)	Carroll.....	4
11	(7)	Cecil	4
12	(8)	Charles	5
13	(9)	Dorchester	1
14	(10)	Frederick	6
15	(11)	Garrett.....	1
16	(12)	Harford	6
17	(13)	Howard	5
18	(14)	Kent	1
19	(15)	Montgomery	24
20	(16)	Prince George's.....	25
21	(17)	Queen Anne's	[1] 2
22	(18)	St. Mary's	3
23	(19)	Somerset	1
24	(20)	Talbot.....	1
25	(21)	Washington	6

1	(22)	Wicomico.....	4
2	(23)	Worcester.....	3

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
6 1, 2026.