

HOUSE BILL 492

D1

6lr2569
CF SB 544

By: **Chair, Judiciary Committee (By Request – Maryland Judicial Conference)**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2026

Assigned to: Judiciary

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 6, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Courtroom Security – Minimum Adequate Security Standard**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing minimum adequate security standards for courtroom
4 security at all courthouse facilities; and generally relating to courtroom security.

5 BY adding to

6 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

7 Section 1–206

8 Annotated Code of Maryland

9 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

12 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

13 **1–206.**

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

16 **(B) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, A COURT SECURITY OFFICER**
17 **MUST MEET THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR A SPECIAL ~~PEACE~~ POLICE OFFICER AS**
18 **DEFINED IN § 3–301 OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (C) BEGINNING JULY 1, 2027, DURING COURT PROCEEDINGS, ANY ENTITY
2 RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING COURTHOUSE SECURITY SHALL USE BEST EFFORTS
3 TO HAVE PRESENT A MINIMUM OF:

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

6 (2) TWO COURT SECURITY OFFICERS IN EACH COURTROOM FOR ANY
7 PROCEEDING INVOLVING AN INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL OR AN INDIVIDUAL WHO
8 MAY BE REMANDED TO CUSTODY AS A RESULT OF THE PROCEEDING; AND

9 (3) ONE ADDITIONAL COURT SECURITY OFFICER FOR EVERY FOUR OR
10 FEWER COURTROOMS ON EACH FLOOR OF A COURTHOUSE.

11 (D) BEGINNING JULY 1, 2029, DURING COURT PROCEEDINGS, ANY ENTITY
12 RESPONSIBLE FOR PROVIDING COURTHOUSE SECURITY SHALL USE BEST EFFORTS
13 TO HAVE PRESENT A MINIMUM OF:

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

16 (2) TWO COURT SECURITY OFFICERS IN EACH COURTROOM FOR ANY
17 PROCEEDING INVOLVING AN INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL OR ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO
18 MAY BE REMANDED INTO CUSTODY AS A RESULT OF THE PROCEEDING; AND

19 (3) ONE ADDITIONAL COURT SECURITY OFFICER FOR EVERY FOUR OR
20 FEWER COURTROOMS ON EACH FLOOR OF A COURTHOUSE.

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
22 October 1, 2026.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.