

HOUSE BILL 492

D1

6lr2569
CF 6lr2499

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

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2026

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

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 OFFICER AS DEFINED IN §**
18 **3–301 OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE.**

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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