

HOUSE BILL 493

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6lr2501
CF SB 543

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

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2026

Assigned to: Judiciary

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 9, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Judgeships – Circuit Court and District Court**

3 FOR the purpose of increasing the number of resident judges of the Circuit Court for St.
4 Mary’s County; increasing the number of associate judges of the District Court in a
5 certain district appointed from Washington County; and generally relating to
6 judgeships in the circuit courts and the District Court.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
9 Section 1–503(a)(18) and 1–603(b)(11)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

14 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

15 1–503.

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

19 (18) St. Mary’s [3] 4

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 1-603.

2 (b) In each of the districts provided for in § 1-602 of this subtitle, there shall be
3 the following number of associate judges of the District Court:

4 (11) District 11 — **[5] 6**, three to be appointed from Frederick County and
5 **[two] THREE** to be appointed from Washington County

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

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.