

# SENATE BILL 544

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6lr2499  
CF HB 492

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

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2026

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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## 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 POLICE 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:**

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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.