

SENATE BILL 544

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6lr2499
CF HB 492

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

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2026

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 20, 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.**

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 **(B) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, A COURT SECURITY OFFICER**
2 **MUST MEET THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR A SPECIAL POLICE OFFICER AS DEFINED IN §**
3 **3-301 OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY ARTICLE.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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