



Senate Bill 621

Committee: Judiciary

Bill: Senate Bill 621 Courtroom Security - Minimum Adequate Security

Date: March 26th, 2025

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Multi-Housing Association (MMHA) is a professional trade association established in 1996, whose members house more than 538,000 residents of the State of Maryland. MMHA's membership consists of owners and managers of more than 210,000 rental housing homes in over 958 apartment communities and more than 250 associate member companies who supply goods and services to the multi-housing industry.

As amended, Senate Bill 621 ("SB 621") seeks to require each law enforcement agency, department, or entity providing security at a courthouse facility to submit a report by September 30, 2025, to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland that includes the current number of court security officers available, the minimum number needed to meet adequate security standards, the current number of vacancies and a viable plan to meet minimum adequate security standards as identified in the Act.

It is no secret that landlord-tenant cases in the District Court of Maryland can become divisive and emotional given their nature and potential outcomes that may result from a judgement. For our housing providers and agents, we depend upon the Judiciary's security apparatus to keep us safe and allow us to fully litigate these cases before the courts. Instances such as the tragic shooting at the Eastside District Court in Baltimore City on January 31st on this year highlight the need for minimum adequate security to exist¹.

MMHA is appreciative of the Maryland Judiciary for bringing this vital legislation forward and would request a favorable report on SB 621.

Please contact Matthew Pipkin, Jr. at (443) 995-4342 or mpipkin@mmhaonline.org with any questions.

¹Belson, D., & Bazos, R. (2025, January 31). *Bailiff shoots man, who also shot himself, at Baltimore courthouse*. The Baltimore Sun. <https://www.baltimoresun.com/2025/01/31/shooting-district-court/>