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Baltimore City

Health and Government Operations
Committee

Chair

Health Occupations and
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Joint Committee on Administrative,
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Testimony of Delegate Samuel I Rosenberg
Before the House Judiciary Committee
In Support of
House Bill 495
Criminal Procedure – Immigration Arrest –
Immunity in Connection With Court Proceeding

Chair Bartlett and Members of the Committee:

This past June, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents [arrested](#) an individual inside the Pretrial Services office of the Clarence M. Mitchell Jr. Courthouse in downtown Baltimore. These ICE agents arrived at the courthouse, stated they had an appointment with a Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services employee, and were escorted to the fourth floor to make the arrest. The individual was arrested while duly and in good faith attending a court proceeding and without a judicial warrant signed by a judge.

In the last year, ICE arrests have nearly [tripled](#) across Maryland. January to October of 2025 saw 3,300 Maryland CIE arrests, compared to just 1,165 during the same 10-month stretch of 2024. Twenty-three of those arrests occurred at a district or circuit courthouse. Maryland courts depend on witness participation, victim cooperation, and accurate testimony. If immigration enforcement activity deters court attendance, cases collapse, charges get dismissed, and civil disputes go unresolved. House Bill 495 does not prohibit immigration enforcement entirely; it simply separates immigration enforcement from court protected participation in state judicial proceedings. Arrests would still be permitted with valid judicial warrants.

HB 495 provides immunity from immigration arrests while individuals are going to a court proceeding, attending a court proceeding, or returning from a court proceeding if the individual is acting in good faith as a party, a potential witness, or a family or household member of a party or witness. This bill makes performing these arrests a misdemeanor with a penalty of up to 1 year in jail or a \$1,000 fine. Additionally, if the arrest causes serious bodily injury, the penalty becomes a

felony with a penalty of up to 4 years in jail and a \$5,000 fine. House Bill 495 allows individuals to sue for declaratory or injunctive relief plus attorney's fees and for the Attorney General to bring similar actions on behalf of the state or affected residents.

In the past year, similar legislation has been passed in [Connecticut](#), [Illinois](#), and [New York](#). It is time for Maryland to join these states and protect the integrity of our court proceedings. **I urge the committee to issue a favorable report on HB 495.**

February 18th, 2026