

SENATE BILL 469

D1

2lr1570
CF 2lr2264

By: **Senators Rosapepe and Benson**

Introduced and read first time: January 27, 2022

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Courts – Remote Public Access**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring each court in the State to provide remote audio–visual access
4 to all public court proceedings, except under certain circumstances; and generally
5 relating to remote access to court proceedings.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
7 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
8 Section 1–101
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

11 BY adding to
12 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings
13 Section 1–206
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

19 1–101.

20 (a) In this title the following words or terms have the meanings indicated.

21 (b) “Circuit court” means the circuit court for a county.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (c) "Court" means the Court of Appeals, Court of Special Appeals, circuit court,
2 and District Court of Maryland, or any of them, unless the context clearly requires a
3 contrary meaning. It does not include an orphans' court, or the Maryland Tax Court.

4 (d) "Judge" means a judge of a court.

5 **1-206.**

6 (A) EACH COURT IN THE STATE SHALL PROVIDE REMOTE
7 AUDIO-VISUAL PUBLIC ACCESS FOR ALL PUBLIC COURT PROCEEDINGS, UNLESS A
8 PROCEEDING IS DEEMED CLOSED, CONFIDENTIAL, OR RESTRICTED BY FEDERAL OR
9 STATE LAW.

10 (B) UNLESS THERE IS AN OVERRIDING PUBLIC INTEREST COMPELLING
11 DISCLOSURE, A PRESIDING JUDGE MAY PROHIBIT THE BROADCAST OF ANY PORTION
12 OF A PROCEEDING ON THE REQUEST OF ANY PARTY, WITNESS, OR COUNSEL
13 INVOLVED IN THE PROCEEDING.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
15 October 1, 2022.