

Bill No.: _____

Requested: _____

Committee: _____

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By: **Prince George’s County Delegation**

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **District Court – Prince George’s County – Remote Access to Proceedings**
3 **(Courtroom Transparency and Remote Access Act)**

4 **PG 305–26**

5 FOR the purpose of requiring the District Court to provide remote audio–visual public
6 access to certain proceedings in Prince George’s County; authorizing remote
7 participation in a court proceeding by a nonparty; providing for the reporting and
8 resolution of the malfunctioning of an audio–visual public access system; and
9 generally relating to remote access to and participation in court proceedings.

10 BY adding to

11 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings

12 Section 1–206

13 Annotated Code of Maryland

14 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

16 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

17 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **1-206.**

2 (A) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY.

3 (B) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION
4 AND SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE DISTRICT COURT
5 SHALL PROVIDE CONTEMPORANEOUS REMOTE AUDIO-VISUAL PUBLIC ACCESS TO
6 ALL PRETRIAL RELEASE OR BAIL REVIEW HEARINGS AND PRELIMINARY HEARINGS
7 OR INQUIRIES IN THE DISTRICT COURT THROUGH AN AUDIO-VISUAL PUBLIC
8 ACCESS SYSTEM.

9 (2) PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO A
10 PROCEEDING THAT IS DEEMED CLOSED, CONFIDENTIAL, OR RESTRICTED BY
11 FEDERAL OR STATE LAW.

12 (3) UNLESS THERE IS AN OVERRIDING PUBLIC INTEREST
13 COMPELLING DISCLOSURE, A PRESIDING JUDGE MAY PROHIBIT THE BROADCAST OF
14 ANY PORTION OF A PROCEEDING UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION ON
15 THE REQUEST OF ANY PARTY, WITNESS, OR COUNSEL INVOLVED IN THE
16 PROCEEDING.

17 (C) ON THE REQUEST OF COUNSEL AND FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN, A
18 PRESIDING JUDGE MAY AUTHORIZE THE USE OF THE DISTRICT COURT'S
19 AUDIO-VISUAL PUBLIC ACCESS SYSTEM TO ALLOW AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS NOT A
20 PARTY TO A PROCEEDING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCEEDING REMOTELY,
21 INCLUDING BY SPEAKING ON THE RECORD OR OFFERING TESTIMONY.

22 (D) (1) THE DISTRICT COURT SHALL DESIGNATE A PERSON OR PERSONS
23 TO RECEIVE AND RESPOND TO REPORTS DURING COURT PROCEEDINGS THAT THE
24 DISTRICT COURT'S AUDIO-VISUAL PUBLIC ACCESS SYSTEM IS MALFUNCTIONING.

25 (2) THE CONTACT INFORMATION, INCLUDING TELEPHONE NUMBER
26 AND E-MAIL ADDRESS, FOR THE PERSON OR PERSONS DESIGNATED UNDER
27 PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE PUBLISHED ON THE DISTRICT
28 COURT'S WEBSITE.

1 **(3) ON REPORT OF ANY MALFUNCTION OF THE AUDIO-VISUAL PUBLIC**
2 **ACCESS SYSTEM, THE PERSON OR PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SYSTEM SHALL**
3 **WORK EXPEDITIOUSLY TO RESOLVE THE MALFUNCTION.**

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