

# HOUSE BILL 845

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4lr2452

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By: **Delegates Smigiel, Dwyer, Glass, McComas, and Serafini**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2014

Assigned to: Judiciary

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Courts Administration – Contracts for Stenography Services – Pro Bono**  
3 **Requirement**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring an appellate court or a circuit court that contracts with a  
5 certain entity for stenography services to require the entity to provide a certain  
6 percentage of stenography services free of charge for certain purposes; and  
7 generally relating to court administration and stenography services.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings  
10 Section 2–402  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
14 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings  
15 Section 2–501(a)  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

18 BY adding to  
19 Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings  
20 Section 2–501(f)  
21 Annotated Code of Maryland  
22 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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

25 **Article – Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 2-402.

2 (A) An appellate court may appoint the law clerks, stenographers, and other  
3 full or part time employees it deems necessary.

4 (B) IF AN APPELLATE COURT CONTRACTS WITH A PRIVATE ENTITY FOR  
5 STENOGRAPHY SERVICES, THE COURT SHALL REQUIRE THE ENTITY TO PROVIDE  
6 AT LEAST 5% OF THE STENOGRAPHY SERVICES FREE OF CHARGE IN ORDER TO  
7 ENSURE ACCESS TO COURT SERVICES BY INDIGENT CLIENTS.

8 2-501.

9 (a) Except as provided for the Circuit Court for Baltimore City in Subtitle 5A  
10 of this title, the judges of the circuit court for a county may employ the court  
11 administrators, assignment commissioners, auditors, masters, examiners, court  
12 reporters, messengers, bailiffs, court criers, librarians, clerks, secretaries,  
13 stenographers, jury commissioners, law clerks, and other employees necessary to  
14 conduct the business of the court.

15 (F) IF A CIRCUIT COURT CONTRACTS WITH A PRIVATE ENTITY FOR  
16 STENOGRAPHY SERVICES, THE COURT SHALL REQUIRE THE ENTITY TO PROVIDE  
17 AT LEAST 5% OF THE STENOGRAPHY SERVICES FREE OF CHARGE IN ORDER TO  
18 ENSURE ACCESS TO COURT SERVICES BY INDIGENT CLIENTS.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
20 July 1, 2014.