

# Hayes\_FAV\_SB714

Uploaded by: Hayes, Antonio

Position: FAV

ANTONIO HAYES  
CHAIR

JILL P. CARTER  
BILL FERGUSON  
CORY V. MCCRAY  
CHARLES E. SYDNOR III, ESQ.  
MARY L. WASHINGTON, PH.D.



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401  
BALTIMORE CITY SENATE DELEGATION

February 26, 2020

Chairman William C. Smith, Jr.  
Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

The Baltimore City State Senate Delegation had the opportunity to review and vote on Senate Bill 714: Baltimore City - Orphans' Court Judges - Compensation.

The Delegation voted unanimously in favor of Senate Bill 714. We urge the Judicial Proceedings Committee to vote in favor of the legislation as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Antonio L. Hayes".

Senator Antonio L. Hayes  
Chair, Baltimore City Senate Delegation  
40th Legislative District - MD

# **Michele Loewenthal\_FAV\_SB714**

Uploaded by: Loewenthal, Michele

Position: FAV

# MICHELE E. LOEWENTHAL

Phone: 443-286-5571  
Fax: 410-764-0321

6205 GREEN MEADOW WAY  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21209

Meloewenthal.law@gmail.com

Bill No.: Senate Bill 714  
Title: Baltimore City – Orphans’ Court Judges – Compensation  
Committee: Judiciary  
Hearing Date: March 4, 2020  
Position: Recommend Favorable Committee Report

The Orphans’ Court has been in existence in the State of Maryland since 1777. It was designated as part of the judicial branch when Maryland ratified its State Constitution in 1867.

We are a specialized court, handling the administration of decedents’ estate. We hold hearings involving disputes concerning the distribution of a decedent’s assets, which includes such issues as determining who should be appointed personal representative, removing a personal representative for various causes, admitting a will, determining heirs, and caveats, which are challenges to a will. Hearings can last 30 minutes or several days.

Each jurisdiction in the State of Maryland operates its court differently. In the larger jurisdictions such as Baltimore City, Baltimore County and Prince George’s County, the three Orphans’ Court judges are lawyers. In the smaller jurisdictions, being a lawyer isn’t required. These individual counties determine whether the judges need to be lawyers and how often hearings are held.

Our Baltimore City Orphans’ Court is open five days per week. In 2019, we held over 1600 hearings, an average of 140/month. The judges reviewed 10,960 pleadings, which averages 914/month. Besides the three judges, we have a full-time administrator and law clerk. Our

compensation has to be approved by the Mayor and City Council, because we are City employees and the City funds our salary and pension. But, now, the law requires us to request increases in salary and pension from this legislature. We are requesting to change the law so that we can go directly to our Mayor and City Council for salary and pension issues instead of seeking legislative approval.

There are currently 11 counties who do not ask the legislature for their raises and instead, request increases directly from their County Executive and County Council. They are Allegheny, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Caroline, Dorchester, Garrett, Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot, Washington and Worcester counties.

We know this legislative body is extremely busy with many bills to consider. It is more efficient and would help alleviate your demanding schedule, for us to seek salary and pension changes directly from our local Mayor and City Council, who, again, are the ones solely providing the funding.

THEREFORE,

**I am requesting a favorable recommendation for Senate Bill 714.**

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Michele E. Loewenthal

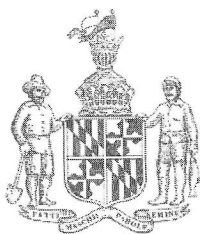
# **City Senate Delegation\_FAV\_SB0714**

Uploaded by: Senator Carter, Senator Carter

Position: FAV

ANTONIO HAYES  
CHAIR

JILL P. CARTER  
BILL FERGUSON  
CORY V. MCCRAY  
CHARLES E. SYDNOR III, ESQ.  
MARY L. WASHINGTON, PH.D.



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401  
BALTIMORE CITY SENATE DELEGATION

February 26, 2020

Chairman William C. Smith, Jr.  
Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee,

The Baltimore City State Senate Delegation had the opportunity to review and vote on Senate Bill 714: Baltimore City - Orphans' Court Judges - Compensation.

The Delegation voted unanimously in favor of Senate Bill 714. We urge the Judicial Proceedings Committee to vote in favor of the legislation as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Antonio L. Hayes".

Senator Antonio L. Hayes  
Chair, Baltimore City Senate Delegation  
40th Legislative District - MD

**Jill Carter\_FAV\_SB0714**

Uploaded by: Senator Carter, Senator Carter

Position: FAV





THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony of Senator Jill P. Carter  
In Favor of SB0714 - Baltimore City – Orphans’ Court Judges –  
Compensation  
Before the Judicial Proceedings Committee  
on March 4, 2020**

**Mr. Chairman, Vice chair, and Members of the Committee:**

**This Bill allows for local control over the compensation of Orphans’ Court Judges in Baltimore City.**

**Currently, in order to change the salaries of the judges of Baltimore City’s Orphans’ Court, the City would have to petition the General Assembly. This bill streamlines the process and allows Baltimore the same autonomy as 11 other jurisdictions across the State to modify the compensation of its elected judges. Chief Judge of the Orphans’ Court, Lewyn S. Garrett, supports this change as well. He is present to share his views. Further, this bill passed unanimously out of the Baltimore City Senate Delegation.**

**Therefore, I respectfully request a favorable report from this committee on this matter.**

**Very Truly Yours,**

*Jill P. Carter*

**Jill P. Carter**