



To: Members of The House Judiciary Committee

From: Doyle Niemann, Chair, Legislative Committee, Criminal Law and Practice Section

Date: 3/11/2020

Subject: **HB36- Juvenile Proceedings – Fines, Fees and Costs**

Position: **Oppose**

The Legislative Committee of the Criminal Law & Practice Section of the Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) **Opposes HB36 – Juvenile Proceedings - Fines, Fees and Costs.**

This bill would prohibit the juvenile court from imposing costs and other financial requirements on juvenile offenders or their parents.

We believe this is an overreach. The Juvenile Court already has the ability to waive costs and financial requirements in a case. Prohibiting it removes an important tool that plays a role in the rehabilitation of a juvenile offender and that can help ameliorate some of the harm that may have been caused by his or her actions.

We believe there are cases where imposition of a fine, payment for costs, or imposition of another financial requirement, including payment of restitution is an appropriate and useful response to a criminal act committed by a juvenile.

For the reasons stated, we **Oppose HB36 – Juvenile Proceedings – Fines and Costs.**

If you have questions about the position of the Criminal Law and Practice Section's Legislative Committee, please feel free to address them to me at 240-606-1298 or at doyleniemann@verizon.net.

Should you have other questions, please contact The MSBA's Legislative Office at (410)-269-6464 / (410)-685-7878 ext: 3066 or at Richard@MSBA.org and Parker@MSBA.org.