

**MARYLAND JUDICIAL CONFERENCE**  
**OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**

Hon. Joseph M. Getty  
Chief Judge

187 Harry S. Truman Parkway  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee  
**FROM:** Legislative Committee  
Suzanne Pelz  
410-260-1523  
**RE:** Senate Bill 523  
Occupations and Professions - Licenses, Certificates, and  
Registration – Immigrants  
**DATE:** February 9, 2022  
(2/17)  
**POSITION:** Oppose, as drafted

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The Maryland Judiciary opposes Senate Bill 523, as drafted in its application to the State Board of Law Examiners (SBLE).

The Judiciary has no position on the intent of the legislation nor is the thrust of the bill a concern for SBLE as the rules of the Court of Appeals do not require citizenship for bar applicants. However, it is unclear whether "professional requirements for licensure" on page 2, line 4 includes character & fitness review, and not just meeting education, training, and other administrative requirements. The Judiciary would request that this language be clarified. "Professional requirements" should include character & fitness and all other aspects of the bar application process if the bill is meant to apply to SBLE.

cc. Hon. Cheryl Kagan  
Judicial Council  
Legislative Committee  
Kelley O'Connor