

MARYLAND JUDICIAL CONFERENCE
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Hon. Matthew J. Fader
Chief Justice

187 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
FROM: Legislative Committee
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.
410-260-1523
RE: Senate Bill 123
Criminal Procedure – Petition to Reduce Sentence
DATE: January 18, 2024
(2/1)
POSITION: Oppose

The Maryland Judiciary opposes Senate Bill 123. The Judiciary generally opposes mandatory provisions that limit the courts' ability to control their dockets and limits judicial discretion. The decision to hold a hearing should be discretionary. This bill would intrude on the Judiciary's ability to manage its own affairs. In addition, the requirement of mandating multiple hearings on a petition would be an additional burden to the court's current docket structure. The procedures contemplated by the bill also duplicate and circumvent existing postconviction remedies available through the courts and available by way of parole.

cc. Hon. Jill Carter
Judicial Council
Legislative Committee
Kelley O'Connor