

HON. STACY A. MAYER
CIRCUIT COURT
JUDGE
BALTIMORE COUNTY
CHAIR

HON. RICHARD SANDY
CIRCUIT COURT
JUDGE
FREDERICK COUNTY
VICE-CHAIR



KELLEY O'CONNOR
ASSISTANT STATE COURT
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P: (410) 260-1560

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MARYLAND JUDICIAL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

TO: House Judiciary Committee
FROM: Legislative Committee
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.
410-260-1523
RE: Senate Bill 123
Criminal Procedure – Petition to Reduce Sentence
DATE: March 22, 2024
(3/28)
POSITION: Oppose

The Maryland Judiciary continues to oppose Senate Bill 123 as amended. 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