

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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## MARYLAND JUDICIAL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Senate Finance Committee  
**FROM:** Legislative Committee  
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.  
410-260-1523  
**RE:** House Bill 176  
Davis Martinez Public Employee Safety and Health Act  
**DATE:** March 19, 2025  
(3/25)  
**POSITION:** Oppose

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The Judiciary has no position on the policy aims of this legislation and defers to the legislative branch on such matters. It is not clear, however, if this bill is intended to apply to the Judiciary. If so, the Judiciary would respectfully request that it be exempt given its current policies and its constitutional authority to separately manage its branch of government.

For the Judiciary, this bill is unnecessary as the Judiciary's Policy on Standards of Conduct address workplace violence and investigations and are conducted in accordance with the Judiciary's Policy on Disciplinary Actions. Any regulations that may be developed would impact these thorough policies. Article IV, §18(b)(1) identifies the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court as the administrative head of the Maryland Judiciary. The power to administer the Judiciary is an express constitutional power of the Chief Justice. This constitutional authority includes managing the Judiciary's workplace violence and investigatory process. As such, the bill raises separation of powers concerns, if applied to the Judiciary.

Additionally, certain aspects of the bill create operational issues given that the Judiciary operates in facilities managed by other state and local entities. District Court locations are

maintained by the Department of General Services or private or municipal landlords. Circuit courthouse facilities are maintained and funded by the county or city in which the courthouse is located. Including the Judiciary as a “public body” in this legislation is problematic as the Judiciary does not have the control, contemplated by the legislation, over its workplace facilities.

cc. Hon. Jared Solomon  
Judicial Council  
Legislative Committee  
Kelley O’Connor