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Bill: HB 608 - Courts - Administrative Judges - Annual Stipend

Committee: House Appropriations Committee

Position: Favorable

Date: February 6, 2026

The Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) **supports** House Bill 608 - Courts - Administrative Judges - Annual Stipend, authorizing the Chief Judge of the Appellate Court of Maryland and a judge who serves as an administrative judge for a circuit court or the District Court to receive an annual stipend in addition to the judge's annual salary. Through its advocacy committees and various practice-specific sections, MSBA monitors and takes positions on legislation that protects the legal profession, preserves the integrity of the judicial system, and ensures access to justice for Marylanders.

MSBA supports reasonable and equitable compensation for the profession, in line with judicial salaries and stipends in other states, to attract and retain a capable, diverse, and inclusive group of judges in Maryland. HB 608 provides a reasonable compensation mechanism for the additional role and responsibilities of the Chief Judge and administrative judges to oversee court operations and budget, judicial efficiency, and personnel management, in addition to their caseload.

MSBA supports HB 608 and urges a favorable report.

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