

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
ADMINISTRATOR
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
P: (410) 260-1560

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MARYLAND JUDICIAL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

TO: House Health Committee
House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Legislative Committee
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.
410-260-1523

RE: House Bill 860
Petitions for Emergency Evaluation

DATE: February 11, 2026
(2/17)

POSITION: Support

The Maryland Judiciary supports House Bill 860.

The language of the bill provides for a five (5) day extension of the relief granted in a court endorsed Petition for Emergency Evaluation. The Judiciary appreciates the need for the extension provision, as officers may have difficulty locating the individual for whom the court has ordered an evaluation in the short period currently provided in statute. An extension would allow officers additional time to take the emergency evaluatee for clinical evaluation and treatment.

The Judiciary notes, however, that the language in Health General Article §10 623(D)(2)(I) regarding “presenting behavior of the individual” could be omitted or clarified. Additionally, the bill does not specify whether the thirty-day maximum extension period is calculated from the date the initial Emergency Evaluation petition is endorsed by the court or from the date that the first extension is granted by the court for good cause shown. Clarifying these points would assist in applying the statute consistently.

cc. Hon. Tiffany Alston
Judicial Council
Legislative Committee
Kelley O'Connor