

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2018 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

House Bill 949  
Judiciary

(Delegate Morhaim)

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**Attorney Grievance Commission - Membership**

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This bill expands the membership of the Attorney Grievance Commission to include three additional members who are not attorneys. All six members who are not attorneys are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Commission member terms are staggered as specified. The Court of Appeals may remove any member of the commission at any time.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Any expense reimbursements for the three additional commission members are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law/Background:** The Attorney Grievance Commission was established in 1975 by rule of the Court of Appeals to investigate and adjudicate complaints against lawyers practicing in Maryland. The commission oversees the conduct of both Maryland lawyers and nonmembers of the Maryland Bar who engage in the practice of law in the State. The commission investigates and, where indicated, prosecutes attorneys whose conduct violates the Maryland Attorneys' Rules of Professional Conduct as well as those engaged in the unauthorized practice of law. A recent summary of the commission's investigative and enforcement actions can be found on the commission's [website](#).

The commission consists of 12 members, 9 of whom are attorneys, and 3 of whom are not attorneys. All members are appointed by the Court of Appeals. A commission member may not receive compensation for serving in that capacity but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses reasonably incurred in the performance of official duties. The Court of Appeals may remove any member of the commission at any time.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 12, 2018  
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