

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2025 Session

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

House Bill 240  
Judiciary

(Delegate Young)

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**Courts - Maryland Judicial Public Text Messaging System - Report**

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This bill requires the Administrative Office of the Courts to submit a report to the General Assembly by December 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, on the Maryland Judicial Public Text Messaging System. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2025.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** General fund expenditures for the Judiciary increase by \$10,300 in FY 2026 only for one-time programming costs. Otherwise, the Judiciary can submit the required report with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The “Maryland Judicial Public Text Messaging System” means text notification about court events and related case information permanently authorized under the Administrative Order of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland on April 22, 2020.

The report must include the following information on the system for the prior fiscal year:

- number of individuals who requested notification under the system and the number who declined to receive notification;
- total number of notifications sent regarding proceedings;

- number of notifications sent at least seven days before a proceeding;
- number of notifications sent six or fewer days (and the number of those notifications sent at least one day) before a proceeding;
- number of notifications that failed to deliver;
- number of requests by participants for assistance; and
- rate of failure to appear by participants in the system compared to individuals declining participation in the system.

The report must also include a review of any future plans for development, expansion, and implementation of the system.

**Current Law:** Pursuant to authorization within a 2020 Administrative Order of the Court of Appeals (now the Supreme Court of Maryland), the Judiciary commenced statewide implementation of a system to provide text notification of court events. Criteria and an implementation schedule for the text messaging system is established by the State Court Administrator in the District Court of Maryland and the circuit courts, after consultation with the Chief Judge of the District Court and the administrative judges of the circuit courts.

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### **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See HB 978 of 2024.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 20, 2025  
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