

**MARYLAND JUDICIAL CONFERENCE**  
**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Hon. Mary Ellen Barbera  
Chief Judge

187 Harry S. Truman Parkway  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
**FROM:** Legislative Committee  
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.  
410-260-1523  
**RE:** Senate Bill 665  
Family Law – Custody Evaluator – Information to Parties  
**DATE:** February 12, 2020  
(2/25)  
**POSITION:** Oppose

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The Maryland Judiciary opposes Senate Bill 665. This bill requires the court to provide to the parties in a certain action certain information regarding a custody evaluator in the jurisdiction.

This bill is unnecessary. Maryland Rule 9-205.3 defines the role of custody evaluators. If one is needed in a case, the parties will be directed to one. It is unclear what the proposed enactment would address, as the courts' Differentiated Case Management plans currently incorporate custody evaluations. Furthermore, it is not evident why the court would need to provide this information to parties in child support actions. In addition, there are jurisdictions that do not currently have custody evaluators who live or work in the jurisdiction so providing this information would be problematic. Finally, it is not appropriate for the court to investigate and provide the cost of a custody evaluator.

cc. Hon. Susan Lee  
Judicial Council  
Legislative Committee  
Kelley O'Connor