

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 1042
Courts - Civil Actions – Strategic Lawsuits Against Public
Participation
DATE: February 20, 2020
(3/12)
POSITION: Oppose as drafted

The Maryland Judiciary opposes Senate Bill 1042 as drafted. This legislation addresses “SLAPP” (strategic lawsuits against public participation) lawsuits, which are bad faith lawsuits intended to deter the defendant or other similar persons from speaking out on certain public issues.

In particular, the Judiciary has concerns with the inclusion of judicial proceedings which could as drafted affect pending civil actions through crossclaims, counterclaims, or third-party claims.

cc. Hon. Shelly Hettleman
Judicial Council
Legislative Committee
Kelley O’Connor