

**BRIAN E. FROSH**  
*Attorney General*



**ELIZABETH HARRIS**  
*Chief Deputy Attorney General*

**CAROLYN QUATTROCKI**  
*Deputy Attorney General*

FACSIMILE NO.

**STATE OF MARYLAND**  
**OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

WRITER'S DIRECT DIAL NO.

(410) 576-7036

(410) 576-6584

February 11, 2020

**TO:** The Honorable Luke Clippinger  
Chair, Judiciary Committee

**FROM:** Hannibal G. Williams II Kemerer  
Chief Counsel, Legislative Affairs

**RE:** HB 484 – Courts – Aggravated Murder Court (**OPPOSE**)

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The Office of Attorney General urges this Committee to oppose House Bill 484. House Bill 484 proposes to amend the Maryland Constitution to create by law an “Aggravated Murder Court.” The proposed court would be a trial court with original and exclusive uniform statewide jurisdiction over offenses that were formerly punishable by death. The Attorney General would be required to prosecute all cases in the Aggravated Murder Court, and Judges on the Aggravated Murder Court would not be elected in the same manner as circuit court judges.

House Bill 484 would impose a significant burden on the Office of the Attorney General. At a minimum, the Attorney General would need:

- 5 Assistant Attorney Generals VI Grade 22, Step 15
- 1 Assistant Attorney Generals VII Grade 23, Step 15
- 1 Senior Investigator Grade 17, Step 12
- 2 Victim/Witness Coordinator Grade 17, Step 12
- 1 Forensic Specialist Grade 17, Step 12
- 1 Management Assoc Grade 13, Step 12
- Victim/Witness Money (The exact victim/witness resources needed could fluctuate depending on the case, nature of the case, the location of the court, transportation needs, protection needs, etc.
- Legal Expenses \$8,000
- Rent estimate \$50,000



House Bill 484 is unnecessary. For the reasons set-forth, the Office of the Attorney General urges this Committee to oppose House Bill 484.

cc: Members of the Judiciary Committee