

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

Hon. Mary Ellen Barbera  
Chief Judge

187 Harry S. Truman Parkway  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** House Judiciary Committee  
**FROM:** Legislative Committee  
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.  
410-260-1523  
**RE:** House Bill 477  
Estates and Trusts – Guardianship of the Property of Disabled  
Persons – Court-Appointed Attorneys  
**DATE:** January 29, 2020  
(2/12)  
**POSITION:** Support

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The Maryland Judiciary supports House Bill 477. This bill would amend Maryland Code, Estates & Trust Art., § 13-211 to require the State to pay a reasonable attorney’s fee incurred in representing an alleged disabled person who is indigent in a proceeding to establish a guardianship of the property.

Unlike Estates & Trusts Art., §13-705, which governs guardianships of the person, §13-211 does not specify how the fee of an attorney appointed to represent an alleged disabled person in a proceeding to establish a guardianship of the property is to be paid, if the alleged disabled person is indigent. This bill would fill the gap in the statute by requiring the Department of Human Services to pay the fee and establishing a mechanism for payment that mirrors that set forth in §13-705(d).

cc. Hon. Kathleen Dumais  
Judicial Council  
Legislative Committee  
Kelley O’Connor