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**To:** Members of the House Judiciary Committee

**From:** Richard A. Montgomery III  
MSBA Director of Legislative & Governmental Relations

**Date:** March 15, 2021

**Subject:** **House Bill 1338 – Juvenile Court Jurisdiction - Adults**

**Position:** **Support**

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The **Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) supports House Bill 1338 – Juvenile Court Jurisdiction – Adults**. House Bill 1338 would repeal the jurisdiction of the juvenile court over an adult who is alleged to have willfully contributed to, encouraged, caused, or tended to cause any act, omission, or condition that either results in a violation of law that renders a child to be deemed delinquent, a child in need of assistance (CINA), or in need of supervision (CINS).

The MSBA has been advised by the Sponsor, Delegate Kathleen Dumais that HB 1338 was recommended by the Juvenile Subcommittee of the Court of Appeals' Rules Committee) remedies a substantive anomaly in the law, under which, currently, an adult charged with conduct contributing to a child being declared in need of assistance (CINA) or supervision (CINS) could fall under the concurrent jurisdiction of 3 courts: the Juvenile Court, the District Court, or the circuit court. The bill would remove Juvenile Court jurisdiction with respect to the conduct of the adult in question.

The MSBA believes that HB 1338 is a reasonable solution to the jurisdictional anomaly presented by the current statutory framework. Accordingly, the MSBA supports HB 1338, and urges a Favorable Committee Report.