

Ron L. Watson, PhD
Legislative District 23B
Prince George's County

Joint Committee on Cybersecurity,
Information Technology and Biotechnology

Judiciary Committee



Annapolis Office
The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 207
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
301-858-3448
Ron.Watson@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Greetings to the Chairman, Madame Vice Chair, and fellow members of the Judiciary Committee:

I testify before you all in favor of HB0885. This bill seeks to change the name of the Court of Appeals to be the Supreme Court of Maryland. Along with this name change for the Court of Appeals, the subsequent lower courts, and certain positions within the affected courts will also be changed as well. These changes proposed within this bill are as follows:

- The name of a Judge of the Court of Appeals will be changed to a Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland.
- The name of the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals will be changed to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland
- The Supreme Court of Maryland is the successor to the Court of Appeals
- The Appellate Court of Maryland is the successor to the Court of Special Appeals
- A Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland is the successor to a Judge of the Court of Appeals
- The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland is the successor to the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals
- The Chief Judge of the Appellate Court of Maryland is the successor to the Chief Judge of the Court of Special Appeals
- A Judge of the Appellate Court of Maryland is the successor to a Judge of the Court of Special Appeals
- The Clerk of the Supreme Court of Maryland is the successor the Clerk of the Court of Appeals
- The Clerk of the Appellate Court of Maryland is the successor to the Clerk of the Court of Special Appeals

With these changes we seek to give the Maryland Court of Appeals a more fitting name and all relevant parties within the courts an appropriate title. Maryland is one of the only states that does not have the title of Supreme Court attached to the highest court that we have, it is time that we have a law and name change that adequately reflects the importance of these positions. For these reasons, I ask for a favorable report on HB0885.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ron L. Watson".

Delegate Ron L. Watson

Ron L. Watson, PhD
Legislative District 23B
Prince George's County

Joint Committee on Cybersecurity,
Information Technology and Biotechnology

Judiciary Committee



Annapolis Office
The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 207
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
301-858-3448
Ron.Watson@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401