

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

Hon. Joseph M. Getty  
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 564  
Family Law – Child Custody and Visitation – Disease or Illness  
**DATE:** February 9, 2022  
(2/24)  
**POSITION:** Oppose

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The Maryland Judiciary opposes House Bill 564. This bill prohibits the court from considering a disease or an illness of a party that has not required hospitalization when denying child custody or visitation in any custody or visitation proceeding.

This bill would limit judicial discretion in custody and visitation cases. Specifically, it would interfere with a judge's ability to consider each family's unique facts and circumstances in determining what is in a child's best interest. In addition, this bill is unnecessary.

cc. Hon. Daniel Cox  
Judicial Council  
Legislative Committee  
Kelley O'Connor