

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

Hon. Matthew J. Fader
Chief Justice

187 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
FROM: Legislative Committee
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.
410-260-1523
RE: Senate Bill 850
Criminal Law – Youth (Youth Accountability and Safety Act)
DATE: February 15, 2023
(3/14)
POSITION: Oppose

The Maryland Judiciary opposes Senate Bill 850. This bill would amend Criminal Law Article, § 2-201, concerning first degree murder, to provide that a person who was under the age of 25 years at the time of the offense may not be found to have committed first degree murder if the murder was committed in the perpetration of, or an attempt to perpetrate certain crimes.

The Judiciary opposes this bill because it conflicts with other Maryland statutes which set adulthood at 18 years of age and, in doing so, treats some adults differently than other adults who commit the same offense.

cc. Hon. Jill Carter
Judicial Council
Legislative Committee
Kelley O'Connor