

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

Hon. Matthew J. Fader  
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 127  
District Court - Small Claims – Examination of Money Judgments  
**DATE:** January 18, 2023  
(1/25)  
**POSITION:** Oppose

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The Maryland Judiciary opposes House Bill 127. This bill would prohibit the court from ordering an individual to appear for enforcement of a money judgment or to answer interrogatories in a small claims action in District Court.

The Judiciary agrees that there should be a uniform procedure to enforce District Court orders in small claims actions. However, the method contemplated in House Bill 127 effectively eliminates the ability of the court to enforce its orders and removes any enforcement mechanism for small claim actions. Small claims are handled less formally than other cases and many of our citizens, including self-represented litigants, access the courts through these proceedings to litigate their civil disputes. After the court decides the case, and a litigant prevails, a judgment is entered. However, it is important to note that the court does not collect on that judgment. If the court rules in favor of a litigant, that litigant must then take further steps to collect on the judgment. This bill would remove the ability of litigants to effectuate such collection efforts, essentially leaving them with an unenforceable judgment rather than making them whole for their loss.

cc. Hon. David Moon  
Judicial Council  
Legislative Committee  
Kelley O'Connor