

**sb604.pdf**

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Position: FAV

**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 Budget and Taxation Committee  
**FROM:** Legislative Committee  
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.  
410-260-1523  
**RE:** Senate Bill 604  
Judges' Retirement System – Special Death Benefit  
**DATE:** February 7, 2024  
(2/8)  
**POSITION:** Support

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The Maryland Judiciary supports Senate Bill 604. SB 604, if enacted on June 1, 2024, has three important components. The proposed legislation amends section 2-507 of the State Personnel and Pension (SPP) Article to allow a surviving child or dependent parent of an individual who is a member of the Judges' Retirement System and who died while employed by the State to enroll and participate in the health insurance benefit options established under the program as long as the child or parent is receiving an allowance under Title 29.

The second proposed change under SB 604 is the establishment of a new section 29-403.3 which is categorized as an exception to section 27-403 of the SPP Article under a proposed section (D). The proposed section 29-204.3 of the SPP Article applies when an individual is killed while a member of the Judges' Retirement System without willful negligence by the member and when the death arises out of the course of the actual performance of duty. This proposed subsection establishes that the Board of Trustees must pay the surviving spouse, a child under the age of 26, a disabled child, or a dependent parent the member's accumulated contributions to the designated beneficiary and an allowance of two-thirds of the member's final compensation to the surviving spouse and if there is no surviving spouse or if the spouse dies, to any children under the age of 26 years or disabled child, and if there is no children under the age of 26 years old or disabled child, to a dependent parent for the rest of their life.

Lastly, the proposed legislation applies to the surviving spouse of a member who is killed while a member of the Judges' Retirement System prior to the effective date of the Act, without willful negligence and with a death arising out of or in the course of the actual performance of the member's duties. The Judiciary supports this legislation.

cc. Hon. Paul Corderman  
Judicial Council  
Legislative Committee  
Kelley O'Connor

# **SB 604 Sen Corderman Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Paul Corderman

Position: FAV

PAUL D. CORDERMAN  
*Legislative District 2*  
Frederick and Washington Counties

Budget and Taxation Committee

*Subcommittees*

Capital Budget

Education, Business and Administration



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 8, 2024

Senate Pensions Subcommittee  
Chair Michael A. Jackson  
3 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 604 – Judges’ Retirement System – Special Death Benefit**

Chair Jackson & Members of the Senate Pensions Subcommittee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present SB 604 – Judges’ Retirement System – Special Death Benefit.

This bill establishes a line of duty death benefit for Members of the JRS system, consistent with the benefits for most other plans with the state. It also ensures that JRS survivors receiving the benefit are eligible to participate in the State health plan, just like survivors in the other plans. This bill also includes a retroactive provision to allow for any affected surviving spouses to apply for the benefit, so that all instances of line of duty member deaths are treated equitably.

Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully ask for a favorable report on SB 604.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul D. Corderman".

Paul D. Corderman  
District 2 – Washington & Frederick Counties