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To: Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
From: Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA)  
Subject: SB 827 – Courts and Judicial Proceedings – Jury Examination  
Date: February 28, 2024  
Position: **Informational Letter**

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The Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) files this informational letter regarding **Senate Bill 827 – Courts and Judicial Proceedings – Jury Examination**. SB 827 specifies the purpose of jury examination in any State court is to identify and remove prospective jurors who are unable to serve fairly and impartially, and allow the parties to obtain information that may provide guidance for the use of peremptory challenges and challenges for cause.

MSBA represents more attorneys than any other organization across the state in all practice areas. Through its advocacy committees and various practice-specific sections, MSBA monitors and takes positions on legislation that protects the legal profession, preserves the integrity of the judicial system, and ensures access to justice for Marylanders.

The language of the bill is vague about the implementation of the proposed jury examination process in Maryland courts and any impact on judicial discretion. SB 827 lacks clarity with respect to the guidelines for conducting jury examination and the role of judges, attorneys, and parties.

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