

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

Hon. Matthew J. Fader  
Chief Justice

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 346  
Criminal Law – Controlled Dangerous Substances and Firearms  
**DATE:** January 24, 2024  
(2/13)  
**POSITION:** Oppose

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The Maryland Judiciary opposes House Bill 346 in its current iteration. Specifically, the Judiciary objects to the mandatory language requiring a hearing as interfering with the Court’s ability to set its own dockets. Holding such a hearing should be discretionary. Additionally, the Petitioner should certify that a copy of the request is sent to the State’s Attorney’s Office rather than the Court. Finally, it is unclear what “substantial injustice to the defendant” means on page 5, line 31 and page 7 line 27, and how the Court should apply that standard.

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