

**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 724
Criminal Procedure – Petition to Reduce Sentence
DATE: January 29, 2024
(2/13)
POSITION: Oppose

The Maryland Judiciary opposes House Bill 724. The Judiciary generally opposes mandatory provisions that limit the courts' ability to control their dockets and limits judicial discretion. The decision to hold a hearing should be discretionary. This bill would intrude on the Judiciary's ability to manage its own affairs. In addition, the requirement of mandating multiple hearings on a petition would be an additional burden to the court's current docket structure. The procedures contemplated by the bill also duplicate and circumvent existing postconviction remedies available through the courts and available by way of parole.

cc. Hon. Cheryl Pasteur
Judicial Council
Legislative Committee
Kelley O'Connor