

HON. STACY A. MAYER
CIRCUIT COURT
JUDGE
BALTIMORE COUNTY
CHAIR

HON. RICHARD SANDY
CIRCUIT COURT
JUDGE
FREDERICK COUNTY
VICE-CHAIR



KELLEY O'CONNOR
ASSISTANT STATE COURT
ADMINISTRATOR
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P: (410) 260-1560

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MARYLAND JUDICIAL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
FROM: Legislative Committee
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.
410-260-1523
RE: Senate Bill 954
Circuit Court Judges and District Court Judges – Selection and
Tenure
DATE: February 12, 2025
(2/18)
POSITION: Oppose

The Maryland Judiciary appreciates the intention of the legislation and the work of its sponsor on efforts to improve the process by which judges are selected. This includes efforts to make the process less political, thereby bolstering public trust and confidence in the judicial branch with highly qualified, neutral and independent judges. We urge a favorable report for *Senate Bill 630 - Circuit Court Judges – Selection and Retention Elections* and look forward to continuing to work with the sponsor in these efforts.

The Workgroup to Study Judicial Selection also noted a concern, on page 62 of its report, about the ability to obtain confirmation when the Senate is not in session. This bill proposes a special session of the Senate in such instances. The Judiciary has concerns about that likelihood and potential resultant delays. If judicial vacancies remain open for extended periods of time, there may be significant delays in the fair and efficient administration of justice.

cc. Hon. Chris West
Judicial Council
Legislative Committee
Kelley O'Connor