

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
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MARYLAND JUDICIAL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

TO: House Judiciary Committee
FROM: Legislative Committee
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.
410-260-1523
RE: House Bill 1440
Courts – Parental Accommodations
DATE: February 19, 2025
(2/27)
POSITION: Oppose, only as to certain provision

The Judiciary has no position on the bill's requirement of lactation rooms and understands the need. The fiscal note submitted provides a detailed analysis of the Judiciary's current accommodations and we expect new courthouses to comply with the bill's provisions.

The Judiciary is concerned, however, with the provision for an automatic, blanket excusal for certain individuals. This blanket exclusion may significantly reduce the jury pool given its broad application. The Judiciary would suggest, instead, that these excusals be handled by the jury commissioners and that individuals request an exemption in such circumstances, rather than statutorily excluding certain groups.

cc. Hon. Robbyn Lewis
Judicial Council
Legislative Committee
Kelley O'Connor