

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
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
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P: (410) 260-1560

SUZANNE PELZ, ESQ.
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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 1356
Criminal Procedure – Pretrial Release - Bail
DATE: February 19, 2025
(3/4)
POSITION: Oppose

House Bill 1356 prohibits a District Court commissioner from authorizing the pretrial release of a defendant on personal recognizance or unsecured bail in certain circumstances.

The legislation will limit a commissioner's or judge's ability to determine pre-trial release after an individualized assessment of the defendant's ability to post a bail and the assigning pre-trial release conditions based on the least onerous conditions. The Judiciary believes it is important for judges and commissioners to weigh the facts and circumstances for each individual case when making a determination. In addition, prior failure to appear is already a consideration when making a pre-trial release condition.

cc. Hon. Teresa Reilly
Judicial Council
Legislative Committee
Kelley O'Connor