

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  
AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
P: (410) 260-1560

SUZANNE PELZ, ESQ.  
SNR. GOVT. RELATIONS AND  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER  
P: (410)260-1523

## MARYLAND JUDICIAL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** House Judiciary Committee  
House Health and Government Operations

**FROM:** Legislative Committee  
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.  
410-260-1523

**RE:** House Bill 1000  
Criminal Law – Human Remains, Pet Remains, and Cemeteries -  
Prohibitions

**DATE:** February 5, 2025  
(2/18)

**POSITION:** Oppose

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The Maryland Judiciary opposes House Bill 1000.

The Judiciary has no position on the policy aims of this legislation but is opposed to the mandatory minimum sentencing provisions only. The Judiciary traditionally opposes legislation that includes mandatory provisions. The Judiciary believes it is important for judges to weigh the facts and circumstances for each individual case when imposing a sentence. Provisions that place restrictions on the judge prevent the judge from considering factors unique to the case. Recognizing that lawmakers are responsible for enacting penalties for crimes, judges are mindful of various mitigating factors in crafting a sentence that most appropriately fits the individual defendant and the crime.

cc. Hon. Gary Simmons  
Judicial Council  
Legislative Committee  
Kelley O'Connor