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To: Members of the House Judiciary Committee
From: Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA)
Subject: HB 788 – Judiciary Department - Commission on Judicial Disabilities - Temporary Appointment
Date: February 10, 2025
Position: **Support**

The Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) **supports** HB 788 – Judiciary Department - Commission on Judicial Disabilities - Temporary Appointment. HB 788 allows the chair of the Commission on Judicial Disabilities to appoint a former member to temporarily fill a certain vacancy on the Commission; and allows the Governor, upon certain request of the chair, to appoint a temporary substitute member or extend the term of an existing member of the Commission.

MSBA represents more attorneys than any other organization across the state in all practice areas. Through its advocacy committees and various practice-specific sections, MSBA monitors and takes positions on legislation that protects the legal profession, preserves the integrity of the judicial system, and ensures access to justice for Marylanders.

HB 788 would allow the Commission Judicial Disabilities, a judicial agency responsible for monitoring the conduct of Maryland judges and justices, to continue its work without delay due to member recusals or vacancies. The bill would allow substitute members to serve on the Commission and continue its very important work of investigating complaints against judges and justices, conducting hearings, issuing reprimands, and making recommendations to the Supreme Court of Maryland on any appropriate discipline of a judge

For these reasons, MSBA respectfully urges a **favorable report on House Bill 788**.

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