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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Joint Audit and Evaluation Committee

Chair, Queen Anne's County Delegation

March 3, 2025

HB 975 FAV

The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chair Judiciary Committee 100 Taylor House Office Building Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: HB975-Queen Anne's County-Circuit Court Judgeships

Dear Chairman Clippinger and Member of the Judiciary Committee:

I write this letter in support of HB975-Queen Anne's County-Circuit Court Judgeships. This bill will alter the number of Resident Judges in Queen Anne's County Circuit Court by one additional Judge. There is currently one Circuit Court Judge in Queen Anne's County.

An additional Judgeship is supported by:

- 1. Queen Anne's County Commissioner's
- 2. Sheriff's Office
- 3. Clerk of the Court
- 4. Office of the State's Attorney

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The Clerk of the Court, Katherine Hager, has provided testimony that she will not need an additional courtroom clerk. Judges and law clerks are fully funded by the State in the Judiciary budget. Therefore, there will be minimal impact to local government.

Thank you for your consideration and I urge a favorable report for HB 975.

Sincerely,

Steven J. Arentz