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To: Members of the House Judiciary Committee
From: Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA)
Subject: HB 864 – St. Mary’s County – Judgeships – Circuit Courts
Date: February 10, 2025
Position: **Support**

The Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) supports **House Bill 864 – St. Mary’s County – Judgeships – Circuit Courts**. HB 864 alters the number of resident judges of the circuit courts by adding one additional judgeship in St. Mary’s County.

MSBA represents more attorneys and judges 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 864 will help to address dockets, increase service to vulnerable populations, more equitably distribute judicial workloads, and allow judges to more effectively dispense justice. Circuit Court matters involve Maryland residents and businesses in major civil and criminal cases, including juvenile and family matters, domestic violence cases, District Court appeals, orphans’ court matters, and more. These courts deserve swift and appropriate resources to reduce delays in case timelines and any related increase in expenses for litigants. An additional judgeship for the Circuit Court in St. Mary’s County will ensure the strength and integrity of our Maryland courts and the judicial process.

For these reasons, MSBA respectfully urges a **favorable report on House Bill 864**.

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