



*Sheriff Gary Hofmann
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Class 236

March 3, 2025

The Honorable Luke Clippinger, Chair
Maryland House Judiciary Committee
House Office Building, Room 101
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support for HB975 – Queen Anne's County Circuit Court Judgeships

Dear Chairperson Clippinger and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

I write to you today in strong support of House Bill 975, which seeks to add an additional Circuit Court judgeship to Queen Anne's County. This much-needed judicial position will ensure the fair and efficient administration of justice for our residents, while addressing the increasing caseloads that place significant demands on our current judicial resources.

Queen Anne's County has experienced steady growth in population, accompanied by a rise in complex legal matters that require timely and thoughtful adjudication. Our existing Circuit Court judge has admirably managed these responsibilities; however, the increasing docket volume has led to scheduling challenges, delays in proceedings, and an undue burden on court personnel and litigants. The addition of a second judge will enhance our court's ability to process cases more effectively, reduce backlogs, and improve overall access to justice for the citizens of Queen Anne's County.

Furthermore, from a law enforcement perspective, an additional judge will help expedite the resolution of civil and criminal cases, reducing pretrial detention periods and ensuring that justice is served without unnecessary delays. This will have a direct impact on public safety, allowing law enforcement to focus on proactive community engagement rather than extended court proceedings.

I respectfully urge the committee to give HB975 a favorable report and to support this critical step toward strengthening the judicial infrastructure of Queen Anne's County. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sheriff Gary Hofmann".

Sheriff Gary Hofmann
Queen Anne's County

cc: Mary Jane Dryer, Legislative Aide
Delegate Steven J. Arentz, District 36