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Bill: House Bill 19 - Higher Education - Maryland Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program - Establishment

Committees: House Appropriations

Position: Favorable with Amendment

Date: March 6, 2026

The Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) supports with amendment House Bill 19 - Higher Education - Maryland Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program - Establishment. 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.

MSBA supports the goals of the bill, as it encourages attorneys in public service roles and promotes access to justice for Marylanders. The bill directly advances these goals by addressing the significant financial barriers that often prevent talented legal professionals from entering or remaining in the public sector. HB 19 will allow Maryland to maintain a high caliber of attorneys in the state, representing for the state's most vulnerable populations and preventing case backlogs and attorney turnover in public service.

MSBA asks the Committee to consider including "an attorney employed by the Office of the Public Defender" in this group of qualified individuals, given their core participation in public service and the criminal justice system.

With the above amendment, MSBA supports HB 19 and urges a favorable report.

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