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BALTIMORE COUNTY
CHAIR

HON. RICHARD SANDY
CIRCUIT COURT
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MARYLAND JUDICIAL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Legislative Committee
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.
410-260-1523

RE: Senate Bill 242
Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act

DATE: February 4, 2026
(2/12)

POSITION: Oppose, as drafted

The Maryland Judiciary opposes Senate Bill 242, as drafted.

SB 242, titled Modernizing Civil Relief for Service Members Act, incorporates recent changes in federal law, 50 U.S.C. 4025a. The Judiciary opposes those provisions of Senate Bill 242 that apply to the practice of law (proposed amendments to Business Occupations and Professions, Title 10 on pages 23-25) because of separation of powers concerns. The Judiciary is recommending that these proposed revisions be removed from the bill. The Maryland Supreme Court oversees the practice of law in Maryland. The Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure (Rules Committee) is in the process of updating the Maryland Rules to incorporate recent changes to federal law in connection with the practice of law in Maryland. Given the separation of powers concerns, the Judiciary believes that these changes should be addressed by the Rules Committee pursuant to the Supreme Court's authority over this matter and its rule-making authority.

cc. Hon. Bryan Simonaire
Judicial Council

Legislative Committee
Kelley O'Connor