

HON. STACY A. MAYER
CIRCUIT COURT
JUDGE
BALTIMORE COUNTY
CHAIR

HON. RICHARD SANDY
CIRCUIT COURT
JUDGE
FREDERICK COUNTY
VICE-CHAIR



KELLEY O'CONNOR
ASSISTANT STATE COURT
ADMINISTRATOR
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
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P: (410) 260-1560

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MARYLAND JUDICIAL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

TO: House Government, Labor and Elections
FROM: Legislative Committee
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.
410-260-1523
RE: House Bill 219
Maryland Voting Rights Act of 2026 – Voter Intimidation and
Suppression
DATE: January 21, 2025
(2/11)

INFORMATIONAL COMMENT PAPER

The Judiciary respects the separation of powers doctrine and acknowledges the policy-making authority of the legislative branch. As such, the Judiciary has no position on the policy aims of this legislation.

The Judiciary only writes to note that the definition of “disparity” on p. 4, lines 6–7 includes the term “statistically significant” which is not otherwise defined. Statistical significance may be subject to interpretation. The bill also refers to “unsubstantiated defenses” without further definition. Finally, the bill infringes on judicial discretion and independence by precluding the court from considering certain matters and, on the bottom of page 5 to the top of page 6, requiring the court to exercise its discretion in various legislatively-mandated ways.

cc. Hon. Stephanie Smith
Judicial Council
Legislative Committee
Kelley O'Connor