

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
AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
P: (410) 260-1560

SUZANNE PELZ, ESQ.
SNR. GOVT. RELATIONS AND
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
P: (410)260-1523

MARYLAND JUDICIAL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

TO: House Health Committee
FROM: Legislative Committee
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.
410-260-1523
RE: House Bill 698
State Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors – Board
Operations and Regulation of Crematories and Reduction Facilities
DATE: February 4, 2026
(2/18)

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, on pages 40 and 49 of the legislation, the circuit court “may compel compliance with the subpoena.” The legislation provides that the Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors may issue subpoenas but it is unclear how the circuit court would compel compliance with a subpoena not issued by the court. In addition, the Judiciary notes that the portions of the bill addressing restraining orders (p. 36, lines 17–21; p. 45, lines 9–13) may be redundant. The Maryland Rules contain existing procedures governing temporary restraining orders. See Md. Rule 15-504.

cc. Hon. Harry Bhandari
Judicial Council
Legislative Committee
Kelley O'Connor