

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:** Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
**FROM:** Legislative Committee  
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.  
410-260-1523  
**RE:** Senate Bill 20  
Family and Law Enforcement Protection Act  
**DATE:** January 16, 2026  
(1/20)

### INFORMATIONAL COMMENT PAPER

---

The Judiciary respects the separation of powers doctrine and acknowledges that the legislature is the policy-making branch. As such, the Judiciary has no position on the policy aims of this legislation and defers to the legislative branch on such matters.

The Judiciary only writes to point out that under § 4-506.1(d)(1), it states that a respondent may retake possession of the firearm at the expiration of an interim protection order. However, this bill does not provide for the surrender of firearms under an interim order and neither does current law. Further, the legislation requires that a respondent submit an affidavit, if that respondent does not possess a firearm, to both the court and any relevant law enforcement agency. As the court has no investigative authority in these matters, submitting the affidavit to the court is unnecessary.

cc. Hon. Shelly Hettleman  
Judicial Council  
Legislative Committee  
Kelley O'Connor