

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 988
Judicial Facilities – Stops, Detentions, and Arrests - Limitations
DATE: February 25, 2026
(3/12)

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, by defining “judicial facility” to include other areas within 1,000 feet of a courthouse, the bill would include both public and private property within that radius, especially at courthouses in urban and densely-populated areas. The bill’s prohibition on stopping, detaining, or arresting an individual for a civil offense within one mile of a judicial facility would also limit enforcement of such civil offenses as traffic and parking violations within 1 mile of a courthouse.

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