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Bill: SB 634 – Office of the State Prosecutor - Investigation of Threats - Judges

Committee: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Position: Favorable

Date: February 17, 2026

The Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) **supports** Senate Bill 634 - Office of the State Prosecutor - Investigation of Threats - Judges. Through its advocacy committees and various practice-specific sections, MSBA monitors and takes positions on legislation that protects the legal profession, preserves the integrity of the judicial system, and ensures access to justice for Marylanders. We promote security for the legal profession and comprehensive solutions so that our practitioners stay safe.

SB 634 is part of a broad, statewide approach to security for judicial officers and our courts that includes improved digital privacy and physical security measures. Authorizing the Office of the State Prosecutor to investigate those who threaten judges and judges-elect brings a new level of examination and accountability for these acts.

This bill is needed to confront the escalating attacks and threats directed at the judiciary. Because of the public nature of the judiciary's work and campaigns for judicial elections, judges are vulnerable targets as their names are tied to high-profile matters and judicial orders. Easy access to digital tracking tools and online posting has increased anti-court rhetoric and threats that quickly spread beyond local jurisdictions. Threats against the judiciary not only cause individual harm, but also reduce judicial integrity, weaken the recruitment of new judges, and diminish public participation and trust in the justice system.

With experts trained in case work involving public officials leading this work at the Office of the State Prosecutor, Maryland will be in a proactive role to protect the judiciary. A state-level, independent response to threats will standardize threat investigations and deter future violations.

The choice for our members should not be public service or personal safety. We must continue to strengthen protections and safety for judicial officers to protect the administration of justice and judicial integrity. MSBA respectfully requests a favorable report on SB 634.

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