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**Bill:** SB 543 - Judgeships - Circuit Court and District Court

**Committee:** Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

**Position:** Favorable

**Date:** February 16, 2026

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The Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) **supports** Senate Bill 543 - Judgeships - Circuit Court and District Court, increasing by one the number of resident judges of the Circuit Court for St. Mary's County and increasing by one the number of associate judges in the District Court in District 11 with a judge appointed from Washington County. 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.

The request for additional judgeships follows a thorough analysis by the Maryland Judiciary, taking into account several variables including actual and projected filings, the number of pending cases per judge, the ratio of attorneys to judges, the time required from the filing of the case through its disposition (divided by criminal, civil and juvenile), and the population per judge for each jurisdiction.

SB 543 will help to address the needs of the local jurisdictions to increase services and allow judges to more effectively dispense justice.

For these reasons, MSBA respectfully urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 543.

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