

HON. STACY A. MAYER
CIRCUIT COURT
JUDGE
BALTIMORE COUNTY
CHAIR

HON. RICHARD SANDY
CIRCUIT COURT
JUDGE
FREDERICK COUNTY
VICE-CHAIR



KELLEY O'CONNOR
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MARYLAND JUDICIAL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
FROM: Legislative Committee
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.
410-260-1523
RE: Senate Bill 202
Police Discipline – Order to Show Cause
DATE: January 14, 2026

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 writes to make the Committee aware of an inherent statutory conflict. Public Safety § 3-106(k) allows appeals of trial board decisions from a **bi-county law enforcement agency** to be taken in the circuit court for the county where the incident giving rise to the disciplinary proceeding occurred. However, this bill would require officers of statewide or **bi-county agencies** to file these particularized show causes in the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County only. That provision causes conflict and is the issue about which the Judiciary comments.

cc. Hon. William Folden
Judicial Council
Legislative Committee
Kelley O'Connor