

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 524
Juvenile Records - Access by Baltimore City Mayor's Office
DATE: February 11, 2026
(2/19)
POSITION: Oppose

The Maryland Judiciary opposes Senate Bill 524, which allows certain named entities broad and unfettered access to otherwise confidential juvenile records without any procedural safeguards in place regarding confidentiality. The Judiciary is concerned that the bill's access language is too broad. There may be cases before the juvenile court in which one or more of the identified entities may be providing services to the child or family, and court or police records may have relevant information. However, it is also probable that the court or police records may contain other information not relevant to the provision of services and of a sensitive or private nature and should not be shared, *e.g.*, informant or witness information, certain medical or social information, certain personal identifying information, among others. This bill does not provide the custodian of the records with any ability to restrict disclosure, to protect that information, nor does it provide for an *in camera* review process by the court to determine the relevance of the otherwise confidential information. As drafted, the bill seems to provide unfettered access to juvenile records to anyone in the named offices. This access runs counter to the current law's confidentiality protections for juveniles.

cc. Hon. Mary Washington
Judicial Council
Legislative Committee
Kelley O'Connor