

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  
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## MARYLAND JUDICIAL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** House Judiciary Committee  
**FROM:** Legislative Committee  
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.  
410-260-1523  
**RE:** House Bill 946  
State Government – Governor’s Appointments Office – Judicial  
Selection - Reporting  
**DATE:** February 25, 2026  
(3/4)  
**POSITION:** Oppose

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The Judiciary collects the questionnaires of candidates for judicial vacancies, including demographic information. House Bill 946 will require the Governor’s Appointments Office to provide to the General Assembly a publicly available report covering the demographic data of judicial applicants for the prior calendar year. This bill will specifically ask for the disaggregated demographic data on ethnicity, gender identity, disability status, veteran status, and sexual orientation of individuals.

If the disaggregation information is at the court level, the bill presents significant privacy concerns. For some vacancies, the Governor may only nominate one person a year or a Judicial Nominating Commission may only send in three or less names. In addition, a vacancy may not have many applicants. All names of applicants are public. Therefore, it would be quite easy, especially in smaller jurisdictions, for the public to identify certain applicants and all their private and sensitive information such as sexual orientation and disability status from this reporting requirement. Currently the ADA prohibits employers from asking for such information from applicants. This intrusion into an applicant’s privacy could also have a chilling effect on qualified candidates applying for such vacancies.

cc. Hon. Chao Wu  
Judicial Council  
Legislative Committee  
Kelley O'Connor