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CIRCUIT COURT
JUDGE
BALTIMORE COUNTY
CHAIR

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



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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 481
Family Law – Denial or Interference with Visitation Rights
DATE: January 28, 2026
(2/12)
POSITION: Oppose

The Maryland Judiciary opposes House Bill 481.

This bill's use of the word "shall" would limit a court's ability to tailor a remedy based on a family's or a child's unique facts and circumstances. For example, a parenting time (physical custody) schedule may be based in part on a child's access to school, extracurricular activities, treatment providers, and friends or loved ones. This bill would mandate make-up time that could interfere with that access.

Most importantly, this bill would effectively establish a mandatory minimum amount of make-up time and prioritize the interests of a parent over those of their child. Under current law, courts may (and do) award make-up time when one party interferes with another's parenting time (physical custody) in a way that serves the best interests of a child which should always be the primary consideration in these matters.

cc. Hon. Steve Johnson
Judicial Council
Legislative Committee
Kelley O'Connor