

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
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P: (410)260-1523

MARYLAND JUDICIAL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

TO: House Judiciary Committee
FROM: Legislative Committee
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.
410-260-1523
RE: House Bill 1044
Criminal Procedure – Postconviction Release – Crimes Resulting
in Death of Young Victim
DATE: February 11, 2026
(3/10)
POSITION: Oppose

The Maryland Judiciary opposes House Bill 1044 only to the extent it takes away judicial discretion.

By prohibiting the courts from releasing a defendant after conviction pending sentencing or exhaustion of appeals, the bill infringes on the courts' discretion. The Judiciary believes it is important for judges to weigh the facts and circumstances for each individual case when making a determination. Provisions that place restrictions on the judge prevent the judge from considering factors unique to the case.

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