

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: House Judiciary Committee
FROM: Legislative Committee
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.
410-260-1523
RE: House Bill 1457
Washington County – Juveniles – Truancy Reduction Pilot
Program
DATE: February 18, 2026
(3/12)
POSITION: Support

The Maryland Judiciary supports House Bill 1457. The Judiciary fully supports Truancy Reduction Pilot Programs. These programs focus on children who (1) are required to attend school under Maryland law, and (2) do not regularly attend school, despite the efforts of school officials to engage the child and their parents with school. The goal of the program is to look at root causes of a child's truancy and school disengagement, design and implement services that engage the child and family with the child's education and increase the child's participation and success in their education.

No matter the reason why a child is not attending or avoiding school, not going to school may hamper a child for life. Youth who do not attain a high school education, for example, are more likely to experience poverty and to enter the criminal justice system. The Truancy Reduction Pilot Programs help get children back to school. It identifies why a child is not going to school and provides a child and parents with access to needed services.

The Judiciary supports establishing a Truancy Reduction Pilot Program in Washington County with approval from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland, helping students stay in school and get needed support.

cc. Washington County Delegation
Judicial Council
Legislative Committee
Kelley O'Connor