

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  
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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 31  
Police Discipline – Order to Show Cause  
**DATE:** January 14, 2026  
(2/24)  
**INFORMATIONAL COMMENT PAPER**

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The Judiciary respects the separation of powers doctrine and acknowledges that the legislature is the policy-making branch. As such, the Judiciary has no position on the policy aims of this legislation and defers to the legislative branch on such matters.

The Judiciary writes to make the Committee aware of an inherent statutory conflict. Public Safety § 3-106(k) allows appeals of trial board decisions from a **bi-county law enforcement agency** to be taken in the circuit court for the county where the incident giving rise to the disciplinary proceeding occurred. However, this bill would require officers of statewide or **bi-county agencies** to file these particularized show causes in the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County only. That provision causes conflict and is the issue about which the Judiciary comments.

cc. Hon. Jon Cardin  
Judicial Council  
Legislative Committee  
Kelley O'Connor