

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 650
Civil Actions – Maryland Uniform Public Expression Protection
Act
DATE: January 29, 2026
(2/25)

INFORMATIONAL COMMENT PAPER

The Judiciary respects the separation of powers doctrine and acknowledges the policy-making authority of the legislative branch. As such, the Judiciary has no position on the policy aims of this legislation.

The Judiciary only writes to note that Maryland Rule 2-311(f) requires a party desiring a hearing on a motion to file a request for a hearing. Generally, the request for a hearing coincides with the filing of the motion. However, in some circumstances the request for a hearing may be filed separately from the motion itself. As drafted, this bill requires the court to hear the motion within 60 days from filing of the motion. Clarification would be helpful as to how a separate request for a hearing relates to the triggering of the 60-day timeline to hear the motion.

cc. Hon. Samuel Rosenberg
Judicial Council
Legislative Committee
Kelley O'Connor