

HB0821 – Judicial Removal – Disqualification From

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TESTIMONY

HB0821 – Judicial Removal – Disqualification From Future Judicial Office

Bill Sponsor: Chair, Judiciary Committee (By Request – Maryland Judicial Conference)

Committee: House Judiciary Committee

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Aileen Alex, Cochair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in support of HB0821 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. We are an association of unpaid citizen advocates—individuals and grassroots groups in every district—representing more than 30,000 Marylanders.

HB0821 proposes a constitutional amendment to ensure that any judge removed from office or retired upon recommendation of the Commission on Judicial Disabilities is permanently disqualified from serving again. If a judge's conduct is serious enough to warrant removal, the public should not have to worry about that person returning to the bench.

It is unfortunate that we even need a bill like this. In a time when shame and empathy seem to be in short supply, clear standards of accountability matter more than ever. Marylanders deserve to know that those entrusted with judicial power are held to the highest ethical expectations.

HB0821 supports the mission of the Maryland Legislative Coalition by strengthening transparency, accountability, and public trust. People are far more willing to engage with their government when they believe the system is fair and that misconduct is taken seriously.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge a **FAVORABLE** report on HB0821.

HB0821 – MSBA Support Letter (2026.02.16 - Judicia

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Bill: HB 821 - Judiciary Department - Judicial Removal - Disqualification From Future Judicial Office

Committee: House Judiciary Committee

Position: Favorable

Date: February 16, 2026

The Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) **supports** House Bill 821 - Judiciary Department - Judicial Removal - Disqualification From Future Judicial Office, providing that a justice or judge removed or retired from office upon a recommendation of the Commission on Judicial Disabilities is not eligible for future judicial office. Through its advocacy committees and various practice-specific sections, MSBA monitors and takes positions on legislation that protects the legal profession, preserves the integrity of the judicial system, and ensures access to justice for Marylanders.

The bill eliminates any confusion and clearly restricts a justice or judge removed or retired from office on recommendations from the Commission on Judicial Disabilities under Article IV, § 4B from future judicial office. The finality of this disqualification is essential to ensure public trust in the court system.

For these reasons, MSBA respectfully urges a favorable report on House Bill 821.

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