



LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS OF MARYLAND, INC.

The Maryland House of Delegates, 6 Bladen Street, Room 300, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

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February 25, 2020

Delegate Luke Clippinger
Chair, Judiciary

Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary
Vice Chair, Judiciary

Dear Chair Clippinger and Members of the Committee:

The Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland has voted to offer **favorable** support for HB 1402 –Circuit Court Judges-Selection and Tenure. The purpose of this legislation is to create a new appointment process for circuit court judges.

This bill proposes amendments to the Maryland Constitution that alters the selection and tenure of circuit court judges to reflect the diversity of the county. HB 1402 will result in a diverse bench that enhances impartially by providing more varied experiences and perspectives from which to draw on interpreting and applying the law.

We feel this legislation is important because it results in the appointment of judges that reflect the demographic diversity of the county. For this reason, the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland supports HB 1402.

Respectfully,

Darryl Barnes
Chair, Legislative Black Caucus
of Maryland

Edith Patterson
1st Vice Chair, Legislative Black
Caucus of Maryland