

**MARYLAND JUDICIAL CONFERENCE  
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Hon. Mary Ellen Barbera  
Chief Judge

187 Harry S. Truman Parkway  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
**FROM:** Legislative Committee  
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.  
410-260-1523  
**RE:** House Bill 681  
Task Force to Study the Maryland Orphans' Courts  
**DATE:** March 23, 2021  
(3/31)  
**POSITION:** Oppose, as drafted

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The Maryland Judiciary opposes House Bill 681, as drafted. This bill creates a Task Force that will study the composition and purpose of the Orphans' Court and make recommendations on how to modernize said court. The Administrative Office of the Courts is to provide staff for the Task Force.

While the Maryland Judicial Conference appreciates the amendment which removes the member of the Judiciary from the task force, the Judiciary believes it is not appropriate for the Administrative Office of the Courts to be staffing a legislative task force. The Judiciary respectfully requests an alternative staffing entity be appointed for this task force.

cc. Hon. Jason Buckel  
Judicial Council  
Legislative Committee  
Kelley O'Connor