

MARYLAND JUDICIAL CONFERENCE
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Hon. Matthew J. Fader
Chief Justice

187 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401

MEMORANDUM

TO: House Ways and Means Committee
House Economic Matters Committee

FROM: Legislative Committee
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.
410-260-1523

RE: House Bill 254
Consumer Protection – Social Media Regulation and Safety for
Children

DATE: February 1, 2022
(2/22)

POSITION: Oppose

The Maryland Judiciary opposes House Bill 254. This bill creates regulations for large social media platforms when dealing with authorized and unauthorized minors.

The Judiciary opposes this bill because it includes mandatory injunction and penalty provisions at Commercial Law § 14-4507(b). The Judiciary traditionally opposes mandatory provisions as courts should retain discretion to fashion appropriate judgments based on the individual circumstances of each case. It is also unclear if the Judiciary has the authority outlined in § 14-4507(b)(2)(i) to order large social media platforms to turn over certain user data as that seems to exceed the courts' jurisdiction.

cc. Hon. David Fraser-Hidalgo
Judicial Council
Legislative Committee
Kelley O'Connor