

MARYLAND JUDICIAL CONFERENCE
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Hon. Matthew J. Fader
Chief Justice

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: Senate Bill 94
Juvenile Law – Intake and Probation
DATE: January 10, 2024
(2/13)
POSITION: Support

The Maryland Judiciary supports Senate Bill 94. This bill would amend juvenile law concerning intake and the length of probation.

The Judiciary believes that, in certain instances, lengthening the time for probation could permit the juvenile court to better serve the youths who come before the court. In particular, the 6-month period for misdemeanors makes it difficult for youth to actually enter into and complete needed services before probation is over, due to both limited available services statewide and lengthy waiting lists. Lengthening the time for probation could provide a more robust array of needed services.

The Judiciary notes that probation must end at age 21, the uppermost age for juvenile court jurisdiction, for all youth. As such, the language of subsection (e)(3)(ii) is unclear whether it is establishing an additional six years maximum for probation under certain circumstances.

cc. Hon. Ron Watson
Judicial Council
Legislative Committee
Kelley O'Connor