

HON. STACY A. MAYER
CIRCUIT COURT
JUDGE
BALTIMORE COUNTY
CHAIR

HON. RICHARD SANDY
CIRCUIT COURT
JUDGE
FREDERICK COUNTY
VICE-CHAIR



KELLEY O'CONNOR
ASSISTANT STATE COURT
ADMINISTRATOR
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
P: (410) 260-1560

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MARYLAND JUDICIAL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

TO: House Judiciary Committee
FROM: Legislative Committee
Suzanne Pelz, Esq.
(410)260-1523
RE: Senate Bill 551
Criminal Procedure – Committed Persons – Release Proceedings
DATE: March 21, 2024
(4/1)
POSITION: Oppose

The Maryland Judiciary continues to oppose Senate Bill 551 as amended.

The bill, as amended, would still require the court to hold a hearing if requested by any party, including self-represented litigants, and permit additional hearings. While certain hearings may be warranted, the requirement to hold a hearing should remain a discretionary decision. Further, locating the counsel of record for the committed person years after the representation is not practicable, especially if the attorney is no longer practicing or no longer with the office with which they were once affiliated. These issues may be more appropriate for the Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure.

cc. Hon. Charles Sydnor
Judicial Council
Legislative Committee
Kelley O'Connor