



**House Bill 816 – Real Property – Residential Leases – Voter Registration**

**Position: Oppose**

The Maryland REALTORS® opposes HB 816 which establishes a statutory duty for landlords to provide tenants with a voter registration application for each tenant who is at least 16 years old. The landlord faces \$25 in damages for each voter who was not provided a voter registration.

Although the REALTORS® can agree that higher voter registration is a good goal, it is the government's duty to register voters not landlords, their property managers, or employees. Landlords should not be required to assume duties that have nothing to do with their job of providing safe and habitable housing.

There are many groups, including the two political parties that engage in voter registration. If they want landlords to be involved in that process, they should work to engage landlords voluntarily in that effort.

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