

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: Senate Bill 176
Wicomico County – Landlord and Tenant – Repossession for
Failure to Pay Rent - Procedures
DATE: January 22, 2020
(1/28)
POSITION: Oppose

The Maryland Judiciary opposes Senate Bill 176. This bill would add to and amend several provisions of state law governing landlords and tenants in Wicomico County.

The Judiciary opposes Senate Bill 176 because it applies only in Wicomico County. The District Court is a statewide court system designed to provide the uniform application of law to all who come before it. This bill would cause the Landlord Tenant law to apply differently in one jurisdiction out of twenty-four resulting in an inequitable application of the law across the State. The Judiciary believes there should be statewide consistency and equity in how landlord/tenant cases are processed across Maryland.

cc. Hon. Adelaide Eckardt
Judicial Council
Legislative Committee
Kelley O'Connor