

MARYLAND JUDICIAL CONFERENCE
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Hon. Mary Ellen Barbera
Chief Judge

187 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401

MEMORANDUM

TO: House Environment and Transportation Committee
FROM: Legislative Committee
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.
410-260-1523
RE: House Bill 1069
Water Supply – Private Well Safety Program
DATE: February 10, 2021
(2/24)
POSITION: Oppose

The Maryland Judiciary opposes House Bill 1069. This bill establishes the Private Well Safety Program.

This bill will have a significant impact to the land records operations and the circuit court clerk's offices as staff will be required to look for another statement under oath (signed by at least one party of the instrument or agent and what is the definition of an agent?) and have additional calculations based on that statement.

The land records divisions has significantly improved over the years in providing eRecording through Simplifile for registered users of Simplifile. eRecording is used in well over 50 % of all transactions which expedites the recording process significantly. These documents with this special tax may not have the ability to be included with simple deeds recorded in Simplifile, or significant IT changes may need to be done in order to accept these transactions through Simplifile.

If passed, this bill takes effect July 1, 2021 and does not provide significant time for training staff as well as updating the cash register systems and Simplifile for eRecording if applicable to accepting these types of recordings.

cc. Hon. Vaughn Stewart
Judicial Council
Legislative Committee
Kelley O'Connor