



**Bill Title:** Senate Bill 875, Discrimination in Housing - Citizenship, Immigration Status, and National Origin

**Committee:** Judicial Proceedings

**Date:** March 3, 2022

**Position:** Favorable with Amendment

This testimony is offered on behalf of the Maryland Multi-Housing Association (MMHA). MMHA is a professional trade association established in 1996, whose members consist of owners and managers of more than 210,000 rental housing homes in over 958 apartment communities. Our members house over 538,000 residents of the State of Maryland. MMHA also represents over 250 associate member companies who supply goods and services to the multi-housing industry including towing companies.

In the case of a rental of a dwelling, a person may not inquire about a person's citizenship, immigration status, or national origin or disclose or threaten to disclose such information to any other person, including an immigration authority or a law enforcement agency. At the same time, a person is not prohibited from complying with a legal obligation or acting pursuant to a condition for funding under a federal, state, or local government program. Additionally, a housing provider could request information or documentation as part of a standard rental practice to verify the financial qualifications or identity of a potential renter as long as such a practice applies to every potential renter.

MMHA supports the Sponsor's intent but requests an amendment to ensure that housing providers are able to respond to an inquiry from a law enforcement authority during the course of a criminal investigation. That amendment is attached.

For the foregoing reasons, MMHA respectfully requests a **favorable report with amendment on Senate Bill 875.**

Aaron J. Greenfield, MMHA Director of Government Affairs, 410.446.1992



AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 875

Amendment No. 1

On page 4, line 24, strike “OR”; On page 4, in line 27, after “REGULATION” strike “.” and add “;”; On page 4, after line 27, insert “RESPONDING TO AN INQUIRY FROM A LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY DURING THE COURSE OF A CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION.”