



HB0824 – Landlord and Tenant-Eviction Data-Collection and Distribution

**Hearing before the Judiciary Committee
February 16, 2022**

Position: SUPPORT

GBUL is a nonprofit organization in Baltimore City that helps disadvantaged Marylanders gain access to equal opportunity in employment, education, health care, housing, and the civic arena. GBUL is one of the local affiliates of the National Urban League, a nonprofit, nonpartisan, multi-ethnic, social service organization. Through direct service delivery, advocacy, referrals, community capacity building, information dissemination and technical assistance, the League accomplishes its mission to improve social and economic conditions and opportunities for African-Americans and other people who face barriers to full participation in American society.

HB 824 – Requires the Judiciary to collect data for possession of residential property and share eviction data with the Department of Housing and Community Development every 2 weeks. The bill further requires the Department to make eviction data available to a State agency or an academic institution located in the State.

Maryland does not have one place where statewide eviction data is collected and analyzed. Currently, the Maryland judiciary only publishes county level eviction filings and outcomes a month after they happen. Data are critical for analysis to target community and state interventions as well as for an efficient civil legal system.

Because there is no state mandate or framework for stewarding eviction data, jurisdictions vary in types of data they collect and make available. As a result, it is difficult to make cross-jurisdictional comparisons or to compare data from the county level to the state level. Further, Maryland is not included in any state comparative analysis, including Eviction Lab which was the first national database created to help neighbors and policymakers understand the eviction.

Greater Baltimore Urban League provides direct service delivery, advocacy, referrals, community capacity building, information dissemination and technical assistance in the greater Baltimore area

- Data would inform our eviction prevention and family stability efforts.
- Eviction data would help our community school efforts.



- Data would help our efforts to address widespread housing instability among students.
- Data would help us target rental assistance.
- Data would inform our community conservation and preservation efforts by identifying areas in Baltimore with high eviction rates.

We ask that the committee issue a favorable report on HB 824.