



House Bill 428 – Community Schools – Rental Assistance for Community School Families Program and Fund - Establishment

Position: Support with Amendment

The Maryland REALTORS® support HB 428 which will create the Rental Assistance for Community School Families Program.

In addition to representing approximately 30,000 Maryland real estate licensees, the Maryland REALTORS® also represent many licensees who manage residential rental property across the state. It is common for these property managers to work in different counties.

HB 428 creates a fund that a community school coordinator can access to help students and their families who are facing housing instability, homelessness or financial hardship. Property managers across the state are experienced with handling rental voucher programs and other rental assistance across the state and encourage these programs to be as uniform as possible in terms of how rental assistance is transmitted to rental property owners.

The REALTORS® recommend that the Director of the Community Schools Program reach out to rental property owners to identify best practices to ensure these programs work effectively for students across local school systems.

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Amendment:

On page 3, after line 3, insert:

- (i) The Director shall seek input from tenant organizations and rental property providers to develop payment disbursement guidelines for recipients of rental assistance under the program.