



House Bill 428

Committee: Appropriations Committee

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

Date: February 2, 2024

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Multi-Housing Association (MMHA) is a professional trade association established in 1996, whose members house more than 538,000 residents of the State of Maryland. MMHA's membership consists of owners and managers of more than 210,000 rental housing homes in over 958 apartment communities and more than 250 associate member companies who supply goods and services to the multi-housing industry.

House Bill 428 ("HB 428") seeks to establish the Rental Assistance for Community School Families Program to provide rental assistance to eligible student households. This bill requires the State Department of Education, in consultation with the Department of Housing and Community Development, to administer this program through community school counselors tasked with identifying and offering various financial assistance to eligible student households. HB 428 also dedicates \$10,000,000 to the fund in the FY26 budget.

Evictions are disruptive to residents and housing providers. Most of all, it has an impact on minor children. MMHA supports this legislation and offers its appreciation to the sponsor for bringing this legislation forward. As the COVID-19 pandemic taught us, we would ask that flexibility be given to the administration of this fund. A program such as this needs to be simple and have as few strings as possible to help incentivize housing providers to participate. MMHA also recognizes the budgetary realities of this budget season and would like to ask that this program not be funded at the expense of increasing filings fees that are being proposed this session.

Please contact Matthew Pipkin, Jr. at (443) 995-4342 with any questions.