



House Bill 520 – State Real Estate Commission - Complaints – Advertising Violations

Position: Support

Maryland REALTORS® supports the House Bill 520, which allows the submission of anonymous complaints to Maryland Real Estate Commission (MREC) for violations of advertising regulations.

Real estate licensees are bound to follow advertising practices that are outlined in both statute and regulation. These include having proper contact information for their brokerage and supervising broker, providing a true and accurate picture of the property for sale, and having the authority of the property owner to advertise the property, among other provisions.

Currently, Maryland statute requires that any complaint against a real estate licensee be made under oath by the person bringing the complaint. However, it can be detrimental to a consumer or agent to attach their name to a complaint against licensee that they are currently in a transaction with, or that they may engage with in the future. This leads to many violations going unenforced.

For cases of advertising, where the violation is in print or there is other visual evidence, this bill would grant authority to MREC to bring the complaint against the licensee even when the complainant is not identified. Licensees would still have the ability to respond to the complaint and to continue through the normal disciplinary hearing process.

To enhance enforcement of current real estate advertising laws and regulations, REALTORS® asks for a favorable vote on HB 520.

**For more information contact lisa.may@mdrealtor.org
or christa.mcgee@mdrealtor.org**