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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 13th, 2024

House Bill 477 - Landlord and Tenant – Residential Leases and Holdover Tenancies – Local Just Cause Termination Provision

Dear Colleagues,

House Bill 477, Landlord and Tenant – Residential Leases and Holdover Tenancies – Local Just Cause Termination Provision is a statewide enabling bill authorizing a county, including Baltimore City, to adopt by local law or ordinance provisions prohibiting a landlord of residential property from failing to renew a lease during the lease period or from terminating a holdover tenancy without just cause; establishing certain requirements for a local law or ordinance adopted in accordance with this Act; and generally relating to residential leases and holdover tenancies.

Housing is a basic human need, and the urgency for housing security should be a priority this legislative session.

Displacement from a home has a tremendous negative impact on vulnerable residents in our community and can lead to difficulty finding and maintaining a job, student transiency, and homelessness, among other negative impacts. Our current system creates an imbalance of power when a landlord can remove a tenant from their home with just 60 days' notice and no reason provided, causing many residents to avoid reporting unsafe conditions or requesting necessary repairs out of fear of retaliation.

I'm proud to introduce House Bill 477 to protect our residents and vulnerable neighbors from unjust eviction while giving localities the option to enact county legislation in accordance with state law. This statewide enabling legislation allows jurisdictions to determine their own Just Cause stipulations.

For these reasons, I urge your **favorable vote** for **House Bill 477**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jheanelle Wilkins".

Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins