



Bill No: SB 992—Real Property - Landlord and Tenant - Procedures for Failure to Pay Rent, Breach of Lease, and Tenant Holding Over

Committee: Judicial Proceedings

Date: 3/7/2024

Position: Unfavorable

The Apartment and Office Building Association of Metropolitan Washington (AOBA) represents members that own or manage more than 23 million square feet of commercial office space and 133,000 apartment rental units in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.

Senate Bill 992 requires housing providers to provide tenants with a 14-day notice of an eviction prior to the scheduled repossession of the unit as set by the Sheriff's Office. In AOBA's experience, tenants already receive ample notice of a looming eviction. Furthermore, the current backlog of evictions in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties has made it difficult to schedule evictions with the Sheriff's Office particularly during the fall and winter months when inclement weather can lead to eviction cancellations on the day of.

This bill also creates an additional burden on the housing providers to store an evicted tenant's property for up to 10 days. Housing providers typically do not have empty storage space, so this requirement would result in the tenant's belongings remaining in the unit for 10 days following the eviction. This burden adds to the losses incurred by the housing provider because it extends the amount of time it would take to turn over the unit. Moreover, this responsibility to provide additional notice should be on the Sheriff's office as they schedule the evictions. Lastly, it is unclear whether a sheriff would then need to be present after the 10-day period expires so that the housing provider can dispose of the abandoned property.

For these reasons, AOBA requests an unfavorable report on SB 992. For further information, contact Ryan Washington, AOBA's Government Affairs Manager, at 202-770-7713 or email rwashington@aoba-metro.org.