



ALEXIS BURRELL-ROHDE

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Senator William C. Smith, Jr.
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Support (FAV) – SB 471 – Circuit Court Clerks and Register of Wills – Maximum Salary

Dear Chair Smith and Committee Members:

My name is Alexis Burrell-Rohde. I am the Register of Wills for Baltimore County and President of the Register of Wills Association. I am submitting this written testimony and urge a favorable report from the committee on Senate Bill 471 on behalf of myself and the Register of Wills Association.

SB 471 proposes that the salary of the Register of Wills be tied to a grade and step set forth in State of Maryland's standard salary schedule. Tying the Register of Wills salary to the State's salary schedule would mean that the Registers, like most of our elected judicial colleagues, would no longer need to approach lawmakers every four years to ask for the same cost of living adjustments enjoyed by every other State employee.

Passage of this legislation does not guarantee that any Register or Clerk of the Circuit Court receive a raise as that final decision must be approved by the Board of Public Works, instead the legislation would tie the maximum salary of the Register of Wills to a grade and step, representing cost of living adjustments.

In terms of how we plan to pay for this legislation, the Register of Wills are funded by the inheritance tax, not the general fund of the State. This means that our salary adjustments would not need to be allocated from the State's general fund and our revenue, which rose by nearly \$15 million in FY2025 and is on track to rise by an additional \$26 million in FY2026, can support any cost of living adjustment without need to dip into the State's General Fund.

I respectfully recommend a favorable report on SB 471 and appreciate the Committee's thoughtful attention.

Best regards,

Alexis Burrell-Rohde

Alexis Burrell-Rohde
Register of Wills
Baltimore County