

HB0765_RichardKaplowitz_FAV
02/17/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz
Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON HB#/0765- POSITION: FAVORABLE

Criminal Law - Counterfeiting and Possession of Counterfeit Lease – Penalty

TO: Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and members of the Judiciary Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB#/0765, **Criminal Law - Counterfeiting and Possession of Counterfeit Lease**

This bill adds to the list of “A person, with intent to defraud another, may not counterfeit, cause to be 17 counterfeited, or willingly aid or assist in counterfeiting any...” found in current Maryland the term “lease” and renumbers the remainder of the list to include it. The bill will prohibit a person with the intent to defraud another from creating, aiding in the creation of, or possessing a counterfeit lease or rental agreement; etc. This is a consumer protection measure to add lease to the law to provide criminal charges for a person committing this type of fraud.

My Jewish tradition declares in the Tosefta ([Bava Kama 7:8](#)) ...: “There are seven types of thief. First and foremost, among them is one who misrepresents.”. This bill aims to stop the thief who would commit this crime.

I respectfully urge this committee to return an favorable report on HB#/0765.