

# SENATE BILL 354

K3, L1, N1

4r1002  
CF HB 372

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By: **Senators Waldstreicher and Jackson**  
Introduced and read first time: January 16, 2024  
Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments  
Senate action: Adopted  
Read second time: February 18, 2024

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Montgomery County and Prince George’s County – Rent Court Workforce**  
3 **Solutions Pilot Program**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Rent Court Workforce Solutions Pilot Program in  
5 Montgomery County and Prince George’s County to provide certain individuals with  
6 certain resources and information on workforce development and employment  
7 opportunities; and generally relating to the Rent Court Workforce Solutions Pilot  
8 Program.

9 BY adding to  
10 Article – Real Property  
11 Section 8–1001 through 8–1006 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 10. Rent Court  
12 Workforce Solutions Pilot Program”  
13 Annotated Code of Maryland  
14 (2023 Replacement Volume)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
16 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

17 **Article – Real Property**

18 **SUBTITLE 10. RENT COURT WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS PILOT PROGRAM.**

19 **8–1001.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
2 INDICATED.

3 (B) "COVERED INDIVIDUAL" MEANS A DEFENDANT TENANT OF A  
4 RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTY IN A FAILURE TO PAY RENT CASE FILED UNDER §  
5 8-401 OF THIS TITLE.

6 (C) "DESIGNATED ORGANIZATION" MEANS THE FISCAL AND  
7 ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT OF A COUNTY'S LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
8 BOARD.

9 (D) "PILOT PROGRAM" MEANS THE RENT COURT WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS  
10 PILOT PROGRAM.  
11 8-1002.

12 THIS SUBTITLE APPLIES ONLY IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY AND PRINCE  
13 GEORGE'S COUNTY.

14 8-1003.

15 (A) THERE IS A RENT COURT WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS PILOT PROGRAM.

16 (B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PILOT PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE COVERED  
17 INDIVIDUALS WITH:

18 (1) WORKFORCE RESOURCES; AND

19 (2) INFORMATION ON:

20 (i) WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT; AND

21 (ii) ~~EMPLOYMENT~~ REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIPS AND OTHER  
22 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

23 (C) A DESIGNATED ORGANIZATION SHALL ADMINISTER THE PILOT  
24 PROGRAM.

25 8-1004.

26 (A) THE DISTRICT COURT ~~SHALL~~ MAY ALLOW AT LEAST ONE  
27 REPRESENTATIVE FROM A DESIGNATED ORGANIZATION TO OPERATE IN A DISTRICT  
28 COURT COURTHOUSE ON DAYS ON WHICH CASES FILED FOR A FAILURE TO PAY RENT  
29 UNDER § 8-401 OF THIS TITLE ARE HEARD.

1       **(B) THE OPERATION OF A DESIGNATED ORGANIZATION IN A DISTRICT**  
2 **COURT COURTHOUSE SHALL BE GOVERNED BY A MEMORANDUM OF**  
3 **UNDERSTANDING SIGNED BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DESIGNATED**  
4 **ORGANIZATION AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE FOR THE APPLICABLE DISTRICT**  
5 **COURT.**

6       ~~(B)~~ **(C)**       NOTHING IN THIS SUBTITLE MAY BE CONSTRUED TO REQUIRE THE  
7 **DISTRICT COURT TO ALLOW A REPRESENTATIVE FROM A DESIGNATED**  
8 **ORGANIZATION TO OPERATE WITHIN A COURTROOM.**

9       ~~(C)~~ **IF BOTH PARTIES AGREE, THE COURT MAY GRANT A CONTINUANCE OR A**  
10 **STAY OF AN EVICTION PROCEEDING FOR A FAILURE TO PAY RENT SO THAT A**  
11 **COVERED INDIVIDUAL MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE PILOT PROGRAM.**

12 **8-1005.**

13       ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2026, AND EACH JANUARY 1 THEREAFTER, A  
14 DESIGNATED ORGANIZATION SHALL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN  
15 ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL  
16 ASSEMBLY ON THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS THAT WERE CONNECTED TO  
17 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS OR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES  
18 THROUGH THE PILOT PROGRAM.

19 **8-1006.**

20       FOR EACH OF FISCAL YEARS 2026 THROUGH 2028, THE GOVERNOR SHALL  
21 INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF:

22       **(1) \$100,000 TO THE DESIGNATED ORGANIZATION FOR**  
23 **MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO BE USED FOR THE**  
24 **PILOT PROGRAM; AND**

25       **(2) \$100,000 TO THE DESIGNATED ORGANIZATION FOR**  
26 **PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO BE USED FOR THE**  
27 **PILOT PROGRAM.**

28       SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
29 1, 2024.