

Mister Chair, Madam Vice Chair, and esteemed members of the Judiciary Committee. I am here to present **HB543** *Estates and Trusts - Closed Estates - Subsequent Discovery of Check*.

On the occasion of a person's death, and following the subsequent settlement of their estate (which usually involves the closure of their bank account), if any property or money is discovered after their death (such as a check made out to the decedent), there are not many good ways for family members or other interested parties to handle the discovered property. Under current Maryland law, they have limited options. If, with the close of the estate, the personal representative of said estate was not terminated, then the personal representative can file a supplemental inventory and account. If the personal representative was in fact terminated with the close of the estate, then a petition must be filed for the appointment of a personal representative. The court may also require the posting of a bond and require the filing of a supplemental inventory and account. Ultimately, these options are very time consuming, as well as expensive, and the cost of the filings can exceed the cost of the property or money in question.

HB543 seeks to remedy this problem by allowing some relief to beneficiaries who have discovered property, or checks of a limited amount (\$1,000 or less) which are payable to the decedent after the closure of their estate. This proposed legislation would allow the Orphan's Court to issue an order allowing an interested person to deposit the check into their own bank account for the limited purpose of distributing the funds in accordance with the decedent's will or our State's intestacy laws if necessary.

I have included with my testimony, friendly amendments, which help by adding clarifying language to this bill.

Thank you for your time. I urge you to pass **HB543**.