



House Bill 43 – Department of Information Technology - Office of Broadband and Joint Committee on Broadband

Position: Support

Maryland REALTORS® support HB 43, which establishes the Office of Broadband, the Joint Committee on Broadband, and dedicates future sports wagering revenue to broadband expansion.

Despite the state’s efforts in recent years, too many Marylanders remain without access to broadband services. Long considered only a business need, high-speed internet has become essential to daily life as more activities move online. This has become particularly apparent during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, as many employers have transitioned their workers from on-site work to telework and schools have transitioned students to distance learning.

REALTORS® report that broadband is viewed by most buyers as an important and needed service, similar to a home’s utilities. In fact, many REALTORS® have experienced buyers who have walked away from a home purchase because the property lacked access to high-speed internet. This leaves buyers with even fewer viable housing options at a time of already historically low housing inventory.

HB 43 will provide needed resources to close the broadband access gap in Maryland. REALTORS® recommend a favorable report.

For more information, contact bill.castelli@mdrealtor.org, susan.mitchell@mdrealtor.org, or lisa.may@mdrealtor.org