



February 3, 2021

**HB 684**  
Professional Land Surveyors - Surveying Practice - Definition  
and Licensing Exception

**Position: Favorable**

Dear Chairman Davis and members of the House Economic Matters Committee:

My name is Bill Bowers, and I am the legislative chair for the Maryland Society of Surveyors. In 2018 the Board of Professional Land Surveyors appointed a special committee to review the Land Surveyors Practice Act's language. Two licensed board members from the Maryland Board for Professional Land Surveyors, our regulatory Board and two licensed members of the Maryland Society of Surveyors (MSS) comprised the committee. The committee's goal was to take a comprehensive look at our State's definition of surveying and recommend changes.

HB684 reflects the work of the review committee, the MSS Board of Directors, and input from the general membership of the MSS, through town hall meetings with the licensing board, general membership meetings, and discussions at local chapter meetings.

Advancements in drones, 3D scanners, robotics, and Global Navigation Satellite Systems are currently changing the surveying profession's services and applications faster than any time in history. However, the definition of the practice of land surveying in Maryland has not been updated to reflect these ongoing changes.

The primary revision is that references to specific instruments of measure have been eliminated from the regulation to account for advancements in technology that are not available yet. Additionally, the proliferation of topographic data capturing devices has made this type of data collection more readily available to the general population. Therefore, topographic data collected by an entity with certifications deemed acceptable by the licensing board will not need to be a licensed professional land surveyor.

The MSS feels that these changes will modernize the definition of land surveying and will position the surveying profession to account for technological changes in the future.

We respectfully request a favorable report.

Bill Bowers