



MD|DC
Credit Union Association

Delegate Dereck Davis
Room 231
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

HB585: Commercial Law - Consumer Protection - Financial Capabilities and Legal Assistance Fund
Testimony on Behalf of: MD|DC Credit Union Association
Position: Oppose

Chairman Davis, Vice-Chair Dumais, and Members of the Committee:

The MD|DC Credit Union Association, on behalf of the 77 Credit Unions and their 2.2 million members that we represent in the State of Maryland, appreciates the opportunity to testify on this legislation. Credit Unions are member-owned, not-for-profit financial cooperatives whose mission is to educate and help members achieve financial well-being. We respectfully oppose this bill.

In this bill, §7-402 states that a “collection agency, may not, directly or indirectly, pass to a consumer any costs associated with the filing fee required under §7-202 OR § 7-301 of the Courts Article.” Our only concern with this provision, is that it will likely shift the filing fee costs required under §7-202 or § 7-301 of the Courts Article from the consumer to the credit union that hired the collections agency. The credit union movement is well known for our customer service, willingness to help members in need, and our primary purpose of helping our members gain financial well-being. Accordingly, if a credit union does pursue a collections action, a significant amount of time and costs have already been spent to try to remedy the situation. If the filing fee costs are shifted to the credit union, it will only increase the burden of an already costly process.

As always, we appreciate the ability to have our voices heard and look forward to a continued partnership. Please reach out to me at jbratsakis@mddccua.org or our VP of Advocacy, Rory Murray, at rmurray@mddccua.org with comments or questions.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

John Bratsakis
President/CEO
MD|DC Credit Union Association