

**MARYLAND JUDICIAL CONFERENCE**  
**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Hon. Joseph M. Getty  
Chief Judge

187 Harry S. Truman Parkway  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** House Environment and Transportation Committee  
**FROM:** Legislative Committee  
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.  
410-260-1523  
**RE:** House Bill 1064  
Real Property – Actions for Possession – Pet Protections  
**DATE:** February 23, 2022  
(3/1)  
**POSITION:** Oppose, as drafted

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The Maryland Judiciary opposes House Bill 1064, as drafted. This bill requires the Department of Agriculture to develop, publish and regularly update a fact sheet on the care and protection of pets in the event of an eviction or other loss of possession of real property. The summons required to be provided under Real Property § 14–132 to a person holding possession of real property shall include a copy of the fact sheet.

The Judiciary has no position on the policy aims of this legislation but is concerned with the provision that requires a summons include a copy of the fact sheet noted above. A summons primary purpose is to provide notice to an individual that they must appear in court. Adding too much additional information to the summons may result in this notice provision getting lost as the individual may not see this notice with all the other documentation they must now read. This will have the unintended consequence of the individual not appearing in court. This fact sheet has not yet been created so it is not clear how many pages the fact sheet will even require.

This bill would also create additional burdens on clerks' offices by requiring more documentation be included with summonses.

cc. Hon. Dana Stein  
Judicial Council  
Legislative Committee  
Kelley O'Connor