

SB0097 Clerks of the Circuit Courts – Bonds, Licenses, Oaths, and Commissions
Judicial Proceedings Committee – February 3, 2022
Sponsor: Senator Pamela Beidle
Position: Favorable with Amendments

Testimony of Katherine Hager, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Queen Anne’s County

Thank you, Chairman Smith, and members of the committee for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 97 with the amendments that have been mentioned. For the record, my name is Katherine Hager, Clerk of the Circuit Court for Queen Anne’s County, and a past President of the Maryland Circuit Court Clerks’ Association. My testimony today is on behalf of the Maryland Circuit Court Clerks’ Association, which represents the elected Clerks of the Circuit Court in Maryland.

As my colleague has mentioned, our Clerks’ Association supports SB 97 with the amendments and my testimony today was going to be about Courts & Judicial Proceedings sections §2-211 and §2-212 as it relates to the delivery of civil commissions and oaths. However, we have asked Senator Beidle to remove our proposed changes in those two sections at this time. We have a great working relationship with the Secretary of State’s office and after consulting with the Secretary of State’s office on these two sections, we would like time to further clarify definitions and the business processes as we work towards ensuring it meets the needs of both the Governor appointees and other public officers with regards to delivering the commissions, oaths, and reporting processes.

Our Association hopes you will look favorably on the changes proposed in SB 97 with the amendments. And we would like to thank Senator Beidle for sponsoring this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.