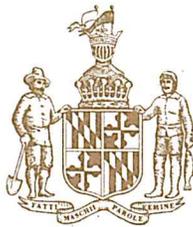


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TESTIMONY - SENATE BILL 74
CIRCUIT COURT CLERKS – SALARY INCREASE
JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS COMMITTEE
JANUARY 26, 2022

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Committee Members:

Senate Bill 74 is a very straightforward bill that provides the enabling authority to raise the salaries of local Circuit Court Clerks. Presently the maximum salary that Clerks can receive is \$124,500. This legislation would raise that maximum salary to \$146,500.

Throughout Maryland, Circuit Court Clerks provide valuable services that include recording filings and issuing court documents for approximately 200,000 new cases every day. They are also tasked with recording 700,000 land records, issuing 50,000 business licenses, and processing 30,000 marriage licenses each year.

The salaries of Maryland Clerks of the Court have fallen behind both their local counterparts and fellow officers of the Court. This legislation simply brings their salaries better in line with those who hold similar positions.

For the reasons listed above, I ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 74.