

MARYLAND JUDICIAL CONFERENCE
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Hon. Joseph M. Getty
Chief Judge

187 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
FROM: Legislative Committee
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.
410-260-1523
RE: Senate Bill 629
Landlord and Tenant – Eviction Data – Collection and Distribution
DATE: February 9, 2022
(2/22)
POSITION: Oppose

The Maryland Judiciary opposes Senate Bill 629. This bill requires the Judiciary to collect, maintain, and publish certain information on eviction actions.

The Judiciary opposes the requirement that the Judiciary post eviction data collected and compiled in a manner required by the Department of Housing and Community Development on the Judiciary’s website. The Maryland Judiciary currently publishes data on evictions, so this requirement is unnecessary. See:

https://www.mdcourts.gov/sites/default/files/import/district/statistics/Calendar_2021.pdf

In addition, the bill requires the Judiciary to collect, compile, and share complete eviction data every two weeks. This workload and time frame set out in this bill is not feasible at this time. Currently, the landlord tenant failure to pay rent filings is entirely in paper. There is no electronic case management system. Consequently, this bill would require the Judiciary to manually compile this data to comply with its mandates. As has been explained repeatedly, the Judiciary is developing an automated e-filing system and is in end stage testing. It is anticipated that the new e-filing system will be piloted in Baltimore County this summer. If successful, the e-filing system will be deployed to the other 22 counties on MDEC in 2023. Until such time as the e-filing system is fully deployed, this bill would put an undue burden on staff and is practically unworkable. In addition, the court does not currently collect “census tract” data.

cc. Hon. George Edwards
Judicial Council
Legislative Committee
Kelley O’Connor