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Judiciary Committee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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The Honorable Delegate Luke Clippinger
Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee
6 Bladen Street, Room 101
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

House Bill 824

Good afternoon, Chair Clippinger, Vice-Chair Moon, and members of the House Judiciary Committee. I am Delegate Nicole Williams of District 22, and I will be testifying today in favor of **House Bill 824**, also known as **Landlord and Tenant - Eviction Data - Collection and Distribution**. This legislation would provide for the Department of Housing and Community Development to collect and publish statewide eviction data. This data would be made available to state agencies, academic institutions within Maryland, and the general public.

At the current moment, there is a notable lack of widely available and readily accessible data on evictions in Maryland. Eviction data and court outcomes are provided by the Maryland Judiciary a month after filings, making it difficult for policymakers and other institutions to respond to need in real time. Having this kind of data at our fingertips would allow community organizations and state and local governments to craft a targeted response to the housing crisis, as we would have a better understanding of where and who requires assistance.

This legislation would change the amount of time between when data is reported by the Maryland Judiciary, shortening it from one month to two weeks. Specific information, such as zip code, the date of execution for the warrant or writ, and the type of action for which they were issued will provide a fuller picture of when and where evictions are occurring, allowing us to address this issue more efficiently.

This legislation will also help Maryland catch up to other states at a national level in regards to providing data on evictions. Neighboring states, such as Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia each have public-facing databases that report on evictions in a majority of counties. By joining our neighbors through data collection, Maryland can demonstrate that it is committed to having a proactive response to the eviction crisis.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to give a favorable report on House Bill 824.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole A. Williams, Esq." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Delegate Nicole A. Williams, Esq.