

CHARLOTTE CRUTCHFIELD
Legislative District 19
Montgomery County

Judiciary Committee

Subcommittees

Civil Law and Procedure

Chair, Family and Juvenile Law



Annapolis Office
The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 226
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3485 • 301-858-3485
800-492-7122 Ext. 3485
Charlotte.Crutchfield@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 23, 2022

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 990
Estates and Trusts-Guardianship of the Property of Disabled Persons-
Court-Appointed Attorneys

House Bill 990 establishes that payment of attorney's fees for proceedings concerning guardianship of a disabled person's property be handled similarly to guardianship of the disabled person. It achieves this by essentially codifying the spirit of Maryland Rules, Section 10-106, in establishing that where a disabled person is indigent and in need of a court appointed attorney in a petition for the appointment of a guardian of the disabled person's property, the State shall pay reasonable attorney fees. If the local Department of Social Services is responsible for payment of the disabled individual's attorney fees, the bill establishes the method by which the Court appoints an attorney contracted with the State Department of Human Services.

This legislation simply clarifies. The Maryland Rules provide for the payment of attorney's fees for guardianship of the property proceedings, but our statute is silent. Generally, it is understood that where statute is silent in such matters, Maryland Rules prevail. House Bill 990 aligns statute with Maryland Rules.

I respectfully request a favorable report for House Bill 990.

Sincerely,

Delegate Charlotte Crutchfield