

COURTNEY WATSON  
Legislative District 9B  
Howard County

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Appropriations Committee

*Subcommittees*

Oversight Committee on Pensions

Vice Chair, Transportation  
and the Environment



*Annapolis Office*  
The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 214  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3077 · 301-858-3077  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3077  
Courtney.Watson@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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HB-907 Public Safety - Out-of-Service Elevators - Repair Contract

**SPONSOR:** Delegate Courtney Watson

**POSITION:** Favorable

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Good afternoon, Chair Griffith, Vice Chair Klausmeier, and members of the Finance Committee, thank you for allowing me to present House Bill 907.

HB-907 is a consumer protection bill regarding residential properties being able to bypass their contract for the health and safety of residents over the age of 60 or for residents living with disabilities. The intent of this bill is to prioritize the health of some of our most disadvantaged communities.

This bill originated as a concern from a constituent because their elevator was out-of-order for weeks, but for others this issue can last months. When contacted about this issue, the property stated that while they would like to get the replacement part as soon as possible, it would require them to break their contract with the elevator contractor. This process can be costly. In other cases, the problem is not widespread, and therefore does not prompt enough concern for the complex to break their contract. However, this is a problem, regardless of whether every resident is affected, or only a few residents.

In this situation, senior citizens and those living with disabilities are left with no other option than to rely on family members or friends to purchase their groceries, to assist them in going up and down the stairs for necessary appointments, and to perform menial day to day functions because they did not have a reliable means of moving throughout their building. In other cases, residents are left on their own - with some missing doctors appointments to the detriment of their own health. For individuals living with multiple sclerosis, parkinsons, arthritis, or a number of other health complications, this can be costly.

You all have read testimony submitted by residents experiencing this problem and I urge this committee to request a favorable report on HB907. I will be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.

*Courtney Watson*

Delegate Courtney Watson  
Howard County District 9B