

MARYLAND JUDICIAL CONFERENCE
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Hon. Matthew J. Fader
Chief Justice

187 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401

MEMORANDUM

TO: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
FROM: Legislative Committee
Matthew Pipkin, Jr.
410-260-1561
RE: Senate Bill 67
Clerks of the Circuit Courts – Civil Commissions – Presentation
and Reports
DATE: January 24, 2023
(2/16)
POSITION: Support

The Maryland Judiciary supports Senate Bill 67. As requested by the Clerks of the Court, this bill requires an appointee for a civil commission to contact the clerk of the circuit court, to which the commission was delivered by the Governor, to coordinate a time and place for the administration of the oath of office and presentation of the commission. This bill also seeks to alter the frequency with which the clerk of a circuit court must report to the Secretary of State the name and office of each officer who has taken the oath of office.

As operating practices have been updated over time, it has become no longer necessary for the Clerks of the Court to send legislatively-mandated monthly updates to the Secretary of State as to who has been sworn in each jurisdiction. A procedure has been established between the Secretary of State, the Governor's office, and the Clerks that renders these updates obsolete. This procedure involves the Governor's office sending a letter to the appointee, advising them of the process to follow, and to contact that jurisdiction clerk's office. Within that letter, a postcard is then provided for the clerk to send to the Secretary of State affirming the proper appointment to the commission. This bill codifies current practice.

cc. Hon. Pamela Biedle
Judicial Council
Legislative Committee
Kelley O'Connor