

**MARYLAND JUDICIAL CONFERENCE**  
**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Hon. Matthew J. Fader  
Chief Justice

187 Harry S. Truman Parkway  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**MEMORANDUM.**

**TO:** House Judiciary 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:** March 27, 2023  
(3/29)  
**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