



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

February 1, 2023

House Bill 244: Estates and Trusts - Registers of Wills - Electronic Filing and Signatures

Written Testimony Only

POSITION: Favorable

On behalf of the members of the Health Facilities Association of Maryland (HFAM), we appreciate the opportunity to express our support for House Bill 244. HFAM represents skilled nursing centers and assisted living communities in Maryland, as well as associate businesses that offer products and services to healthcare providers. Our members provide services and employ individuals in nearly every jurisdiction of the state.

House Bill 244 requires a register of wills to accept certain documents filed electronically through a system established by the register of wills; and prohibits a register of wills from refusing to accept a document based on the manner in which it was signed.

As many residents and patients in long-term and post-acute care are older, may be disabled, or have some form of dementia, these sorts of legal documents are commonplace and are often created or updated for those in our settings.

It is important to use the technology available to modernize the filing of legal documents, and as we know, laws often lag behind advancements in technology. Especially with some people continuing to practice social distancing, it is important that, when appropriate, legal documents may be filed electronically.

For these reasons, we request a favorable report from the Committee on House Bill 244.

Submitted by:

Joseph DeMattos, Jr.
President and CEO
(410) 290-5132