



## House Bill 535

**Committee: Environment and Transportation**

**Date: February 16, 2024**

**Position: Favorable with Amendment**

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The Maryland Multi-Housing Association (MMHA) is a professional trade association established in 1996, whose members house more than 538,000 residents of the State of Maryland. MMHA's membership consists of owners and managers of more than 210,000 rental housing homes in over 958 apartment communities and more than 250 associate member companies who supply goods and services to the multi-housing industry.

House Bill 535 ("HB 535") establishes the Maryland Task Force on Educator Housing to evaluate and make recommendations on options for addressing the lack of access to attainable housing rentals and home ownership for educators in the State and to evaluate the correlation between the lack of access to attainable housing and educator shortages in the State. HB 535 also requires the task force to report its findings and send a recommendation to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before December 1, 2025.

MMHA would like to thank the sponsors for bringing forth this proposal with the goal of finding more solutions to our housing crisis. Specifically, MMHA recognizes that many educators across Maryland seek and choose to live in our multi-housing communities and to make it their homes. Therefore, we would like to offer a friendly amendment to bill, respectfully asking that our association be included in the proposed task force. MMHA is confident that our inclusion to this task force would bring valuable expertise and real insight into the difficulties surrounding the housing rental market today. Together, we would like to be part of the solution to assisting our educator workforce.

### **Amendments:**

On page 2, following line 7, insert "(VII) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND MULTI-HOUSING ASSOCIATION".

Please contact Matt Pipkin at (443) 995-4342 or [mpipkin@mmhaonline.org](mailto:mpipkin@mmhaonline.org) with any questions.