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Judicial Proceedings Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

January 30, 2024

The Maryland State Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
2 East Miller Senate Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Senate Bill 147: Real Property – Access to Counsel in Evictions Program – Mandated Reports

Dear Chairman Smith and Members of the Committee,

Senate Bill 147 is an exceedingly simple bill.

Each year, the State Budget contains a notation requiring the Maryland Legal Services Corporation to report quarterly various statistics relating to the Access to Counsel in Evictions Program. The purpose of Senate Bill 147 is to simplify this reporting requirement. It puts the reporting requirement into statute rather than requiring the reporting language to be included in the State Budget each year, and it reduces the frequency of reporting to annually instead of quarterly.

Late last week, I spoke with Michelle Siri, the new Executive Director of the Maryland Legal Services Corporation. She confirmed that MLSC already reports the information required by this bill, but she noted that the MLSC budget is only funded through June 30, 2027. There is an expense associated with providing these reports, and MLSC would not be able to prepare the reports if its funding should be significantly reduced. For this reason, she asked that I amend this bill to sunset the bill as of June 30, 2027. I was happy to accommodate her request. I have requested such an amendment and have provided it to Committee counsel.

I appreciate the Committee's consideration of Senate Bill 147 and will be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.



SB0147/263825/1

AMENDMENTS
PREPARED
BY THE
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

25 JAN 24
15:20:30

BY: Senator West

(To be offered in the Judicial Proceedings Committee)

AMENDMENT TO SENATE BILL 147

(First Reading File Bill)

On page 3, in line 7, after the period insert “It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and 9 months and, at the end of June 30, 2027, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.”.