

HB347 Real Property – Recordation and Land Records – Requirements
Environment and Transportation Committee – January 24, 2025
Sponsor: Delegate Marvin Holmes
Position: Favorable with Amendments

Testimony of Scott Poyer, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Anne Arundel County

Thank you, Chairman Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and members of the committee, for this opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 347. For the record, my name is Scott Poyer, Clerk of the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County. I am also here on behalf of the Maryland Circuit Court Clerks Association, which represents the 24 elected clerks of the circuit court in Maryland.

The Clerks support HB 347 because it updates the Real Property article of the Maryland Code to reflect current technology. For instance, HB 347 removes reference to the updating of paper books because Land Records are recorded electronically now. It removes references to obsolete technology such as “linen” copies, “aperture cards,” and “microfilm.” And it removes references to obsolete practices such as sending paper documents to the Maryland State Archives at the end of the year, because documents are now sent electronically throughout the year.

The Clerks and title industry representatives had minor friendly amendments to the bill, which we understand the sponsor is accepting. With those amendments we fully support this bill and we ask for a favorable report on HB 347. The Clerks would also like to thank Delegate Holmes for sponsoring this bill and I am available to answer any questions you may have.