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HB 623 Estates and Trust – Estate Administration – Publication of Notice
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
March 26, 2025
FAVORABLE

Good afternoon, Chair Smith and members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee. My name is Tammy Bresnahan, and I am the Senior Director of Advocacy for AARP Maryland. AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that advocates on behalf of more than two million Marylanders aged 50 and older. On behalf of our more than 850,000 members in the state, I thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and express our strong support for **House Bill 623**, sponsored by Delegate Embry.

As many of you know, AARP's mission is to empower people to choose how they live as they age. Our work includes advocating for financial security, access to healthcare, and robust safety nets for older adults and low-income families across Maryland.

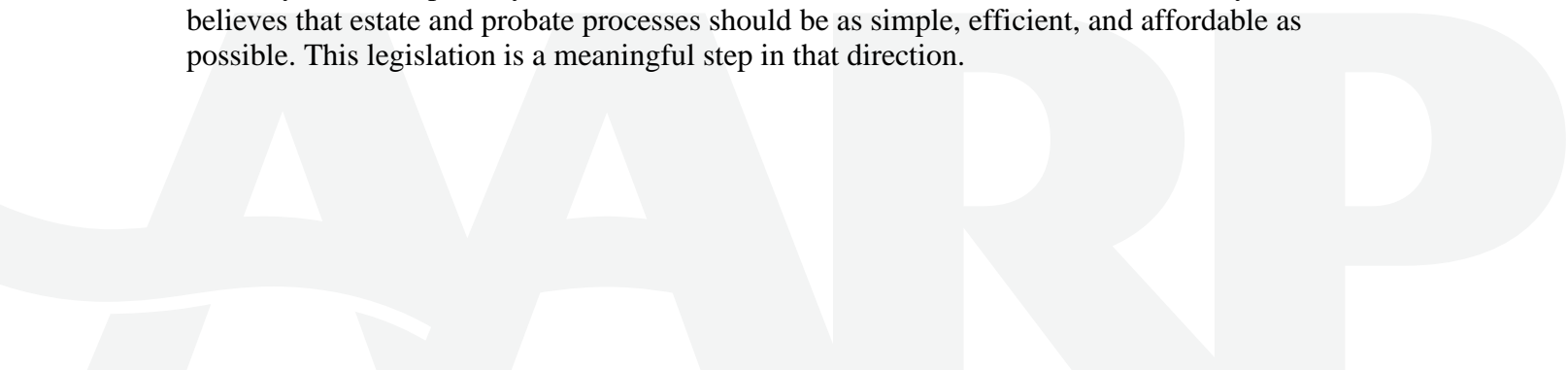
House Bill 623 proposes a straightforward and cost-effective improvement to the estate administration process. It would require the Registers of Wills in each county and Baltimore City to coordinate the development and maintenance of a centralized online website for publishing legally required estate notices. Specifically, this online system would replace the current requirement to publish these notices in print newspapers of general circulation.

Under this bill, the following types of notices would be posted online:

1. Appointment of a personal representative of an estate;
2. Judicial probate of an estate;
3. Appointment of a foreign personal representative and related estate information; and
4. Notice of a court-ordered meeting for distribution of the net estate.

HB 623 modernizes a costly and outdated process by eliminating the need to publish estate notices in print newspapers—offering instead a free, centralized, and accessible online resource operated by the Registers of Wills.

This change will reduce financial burdens for families handling estate matters and make it easier for Marylanders, especially older adults, to access essential information. AARP Maryland believes that estate and probate processes should be as simple, efficient, and affordable as possible. This legislation is a meaningful step in that direction.



For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Committee to support HB 623 and recommend its passage into law.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at tbresnahan@aarp.org or by phone at 410-302-8451.