



**SB566: Real Property – Filing Fee for Residential Mortgage Foreclosure
Hearing before
Judicial Proceedings Committee
Position: FAVORABLE**

Shore Legal Access (formerly Mid-Shore Pro Bono) supports SB566. The bill would increase the filing fee for mortgage foreclosures from \$300 to \$600. This is the first time the filing fee has been increased in ten years and funds would support the Maryland Housing Counseling Fund that provides funding to nonprofits and governments providing housing counseling and legal representation for homeowners and renters.

Shore Legal Access (SLA) connects people on the Eastern Shore with limited financial means to legal representation and essential community resources. Each year, SLA helps nearly 4,000 people in our community access the legal system when they would otherwise be shut out. Our small legal team and network of volunteer lawyers provide free legal services for criminal record expungement, life planning, family law, landlord/tenant, foreclosure, and consumer debt. These services help families gain financial and housing stability and create safe, secure homes for children.

Shore Legal Access provides legal representation for people with limited financial means facing foreclosure through our network of volunteer attorneys. SB566 would raise the filing fee, thereby increasing funds available to provide homeowners and tenants resources needed to prevent foreclosure. Shore Legal Access urges the Committee's SUPPORT for this bill. Please don't hesitate to contact Meredith Girard (mgirard@shorelegal.org) with any questions or additional information about this important issue.

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