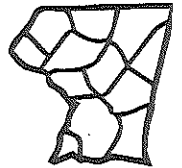




Paul G. Zimmermann
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Senator William C. Smith, Jr.
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21402

FAVORABLE SUPPORT – SB 628

February 7, 2025

Re: Senate Bill 628 – Estates and Trusts – Registers of Wills -Salary

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

The purpose of this letter is to support SB 628, which deals with the salaries of the Registers of Wills. This legislation provides a Cost-of-Living Adjustment for the Registers. As you know, we, as elected officials, are prohibited from receiving any increase in salary during the 4 year term of our election. Nor do we receive step increments or any other salary adjustments that our staff and other state employees receive. This adjustment, set out in SB628, will not take effect until the next term which begins in 2026. Furthermore, there would not be any step increases or bonuses. And the bill would eliminate the need to come before the legislators to ask for an increase. The Board of Public Works would still decide the salaries for the Registers.

Our salaries, as well as the salaries of our staff, are paid from the fees collected by the offices after deducting our expenses. So far this fiscal year, our revenue has increased over 9% with a very positive projection for the rest of the year.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully urge a favorable report on SB 628. If you have any questions, I will be at the hearing on Tuesday, February 12 and would be happy to answer them.

Sincerely,

Paul G. Zimmermann
Register of Wills for Carroll County, Maryland