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The Honorable Delegate Luke Clippinger, Chair
House Office Building, Room 101
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Support (FAV) – HB 660 – Estates and Trusts – Estate Administration – Publication of Notice

Dear Chair Clippinger and Committee Members:

My name is Alexis Burrell-Rohde. I am the Register of Wills for Baltimore County and President of the Register of Wills Association. I am submitting this written testimony and urge a favorable report from the committee on House Bill 660 on behalf of Baltimore County and the Register of Wills Association.

Under current law, an estate may not be opened administratively and instead must be ruled on by the Orphans' Court when a copy of a will is submitted for probate, even when all of the interested persons have consented. This causes needless and unnecessary delay for grieving families. The vast majority of estates are opened administratively which means that Maryland law already empowers the Register of Wills and staff to review critical testamentary documents and determine if the documents meet the legal requirements to be admitted to probate as a valid Will. There is no difference between that analysis and the one requested with HB 660. Additionally, there is ample time for anyone to object to the admission of a copy as a will to probate, just as there is when other testamentary documents are admitted to probate.

I respectfully recommend a favorable report on House Bill 660 and appreciate the Committee's thoughtful attention.

Best regards,

Alexis Burrell-Rohde

Alexis Burrell-Rohde
Register of Wills
Baltimore County