



STATE OF MARYLAND
REGISTER OF WILLS FOR ALLEGANY COUNTY, MARYLAND

MARY BETH PIROLOZZI
REGISTER OF WILLS
www.registers.maryland.gov

59 PROSPECT SQUARE
1st FLOOR
CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND 21502
February 10, 2025

TELEPHONE
(301) 724-3760
FAX (301) 724-1249

The Honorable Luke Clippinger
House Judiciary Committee
100 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

FAVORABLE SUPPORT - HB 623

RE: House Bill 623 – Estates and Trusts – Estate Administration – Publication of Notice

Dear Mr. Chairman and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am writing in **support of House Bill 623** and ask for your favorable committee report for this important legislation. I hope you will note that **you voted unanimously for this bill last year**, and I hope that you will do the same again this year. As Register of Wills for Allegany County:

- The readership and circulation of the Cumberland Times has diminished dramatically and the unknown heirs are not being reached through the newspaper (our only publication). AND our newspaper **only publishes 5 days each week. Heirs will find out about an estate through word of mouth from relatives or friends, and the creditors will use our website.**
- We are the collection agency for these newspapers whose ownerships are out of the state of Maryland, in our case Johnstown, PA, and our citizens are paying lots of money for these notices, money that doesn't even stay local. Errors occur frequently, we have had customers inconvenienced by having to pay again because no one could find their payment at the newspaper, and the stories go on and on.
- Routinely, notices need to be republished because of errors in the notices.
- **Interested persons will continue to get a notice mailed directly to them by the Registers, preserving their due process rights.**

Thank you for your time and attention. I respectfully urge a favorable report on **HB 623**.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Pirolozzi
Register of Wills

