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Bill: SB 425 – State Archives - Record Services - Fees

Committee: Senate Budget and Taxation Committee

Position: Favorable

Date: February 16, 2026

The Maryland State Bar Association (MSBA) **supports** Senate Bill 425 - State Archives - Record Services - Fees. Through its advocacy committees and various practice-specific sections, MSBA monitors and takes positions on legislation that protects the legal profession, preserves the integrity of the judicial system, and ensures access to justice for Marylanders.

SB 425 establishes standards for any reasonable fees established by the Maryland State Archives (“Archives”) by adding the requirement of fee-setting by regulation, allowing for the opportunity to have public notice and comment as well as legislative review of the proposed fee. Any fees should be fair and in line with comparable states, without prohibitively restricting public access.

The ability to access public records is a necessary and vital component to many of our members’ cases and settlements, and by extension, their clients. Unregulated and unpredictable fees can significantly impact the ability and pace of law firms and legal service providers to continue serving clients as well as those individuals and businesses trying to resolve legal matter on their own.

For these reasons, MSBA respectfully urges a favorable report on Senate Bill 425.

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