

JOHNNY RAY SALLING
Legislative District 6
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Budget and Taxation Committee
Public Safety, Transportation,
and Environment Subcommittee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

January 19, 2026

Senator Guy Guzzone
Senator Jim Rosapepe
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

I'm asking for your support for the State Department of Assessments and Taxation - Blockchain-Based Real Property Title Pilot Program – Establishment. This bill would launch a small pilot within the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) to test how blockchain technology can help protect property owners and make title verification more efficient and transparent.

Landlords across Maryland face serious problems — forged leases, unauthorized occupants who aren't on the lease, and long, expensive legal battles just to remove people who are illegally living in their properties. The pilot program aims to address these issues by creating a secure system for recording property titles and giving law enforcement and the courts real-time access to confirm legitimate ownership and occupancy.

The pilot would:

- Build a blockchain registry for property title verification.
- Allow owners in pilot areas to opt in to mirror their title data.
- Test secure smart contract tools for title transfers and escrow.

This approach could save time, reduce fraud, and give law enforcement the tools they need to act quickly when property rights are being abused.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I urge a favorable report on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Johnny Ray Salling".

Senator Johnny Ray Salling