

SB0425 - MBA - FAV - GR26.pdf

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Position: FAV



SB 425 – State Archives – Record Services - Fees

Committee: Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

Date: February 18, 2026

Position: Favorable

The Maryland Bankers Association (MBA) **SUPPORTS** SB 425. This legislation requires the State Archives to establish certain fees for the preservation and care of records by regulation, which is a practical, responsible step toward ensuring that the State Archives remains a modern, well funded, reliable, and transparent institution. MBA supports a reasonable fee schedule that covers the actual costs of maintaining and modernizing Maryland’s land record system rather than agency-wide operations that should be General Fund obligations.

Mortgage lenders, title companies, and loan processors complete thousands of transactions annually. They depend on accurate, accessible, and efficiently managed public records—especially those related to property transactions, mortgage lending, lien records, and other essential financial documentation—to complete these transactions. Reliable records reduce delays in settlements, reduce title errors, and lower the risk of disputes.

Consistent fee structures—established through regulation rather than ad hoc charges—allow financial institutions to budget accurately and avoid unexpected cost fluctuations. Accordingly, MBA urges the issuance of a **FAVORABLE** report on SB 425.

The Maryland Bankers Association (MBA) represents FDIC-insured community, regional, and national banks, employing thousands of Marylanders and holding \$194.8 billion in deposits in over 1,100 branches across our State. The Maryland banking industry serves customers across the State and provides an array of financial services including residential mortgage lending, business banking, estates and trust services, consumer banking, and more.

SB 425 - Archives Regulations - FAV - REALTORS.pdf

Uploaded by: Lisa May

Position: FAV



Senate Bill 425 - State Archives - Record Services - Fees

Position: Support

Maryland REALTORS® supports SB 425, to require that changes to fees charged by the State Archives are established by regulation.

In March 2025, the Maryland Archives alerted users of the Maryland Land Records system (MDLandRec) that a new user fee would be implemented beginning in May 2025. This fee was to be set at \$0.20/page for view or download, and pages would be available for 30 days before needing to be repurchased. Users would be charged for all pages in each document accessed, even if they did not view all pages within the file. Monthly subscriptions would be available to members of the Maryland Small Business Reserve, which would total \$500 to \$1,500 per month, so long as those users stay below their allocated credits at each subscription tier.

This proposal did not proceed through formal rule-making or legislation, leaving end users of the MDLandRec system and Maryland consumers without a way to submit comments or propose alternatives. What's more, neither the Clerks of the Court nor the State Court Administrator were given advance notice, and it was not discussed at the December meeting of the oversight committee of the Circuit Court Real Property Records Improvement Fund.

SB 425 will ensure that this does not happen again, and we respectfully urge a favorable report.

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SB0425– MSBA Support Letter (2026.02.16 - State Ar

Uploaded by: Shaoli Sarkar

Position: FAV



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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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