

GARY SIMMONS  
*Legislative District 12B*  
Anne Arundel County

Judiciary Committee  
*Subcommittees*

Criminal Law and Procedure  
Family and Juvenile Law



The Maryland House of Delegates  
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
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Good afternoon, Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee.

I would like to provide a letter of support for HB0062, legislation specific to Anne Arundel County that makes targeted, practical improvements to how failure-to-pay-rent summonses are issued and served. HB0062 is not about changing tenant or landlord rights. It is about ensuring notice is meaningful, service is reliable, and court operations are realistic, given the volume of cases handled each year. In fiscal year 2025 alone, according to the Fiscal and Policy Note, Anne Arundel County saw more than 22,000 failure-to-pay-rent filings. With that level of volume, our systems must be designed to work as intended, not just on paper, but in real life.

This bill strengthens due process by improving how tenants are notified of court proceedings. By requiring summonses to be issued to constables or sheriff's designees, mandating first-class mail notice, and requiring the posting of trial notices at the property at least seven days in advance, HB62 helps ensure that tenants actually receive notice and have a fair opportunity to appear in court. These changes reduce the risk of missed hearings caused by breakdowns in service rather than a lack of responsibility.

HB0062 also introduces greater flexibility and efficiency for law enforcement by formally authorizing sheriffs' designees to carry out the same duties as constables in these matters. This allows the Sheriff's Office to manage workload more effectively, meet legal time requirements, and potentially reduce overtime costs—without expanding authority beyond what already exists.

Importantly, the bill recognizes operational realities within the District Court by limiting the number of cases that can be scheduled for service on a single day. This safeguard prevents overload, protects the integrity of service, and helps ensure that each case receives appropriate attention rather than being rushed through an unsustainable process.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask for a favorable report on HB0062.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Delegate Gary Simmons  
Maryland State Legislator  
Ann Arundel County, District 12b