



House Bill 576 - State Archives - Record Services - Fees

Position: Support

Maryland REALTORS® supports HB 576, 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.

HB 576 will ensure that this does not happen again, and we respectfully urge a favorable report.

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