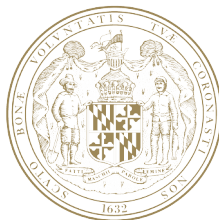


JEFFERSON L. GHRIST
Co-CHAIR

NATALIE ZIEGLER
Co-CHAIR



H. KEVIN ANDERSON
TERRY BAKER
KEVIN B. HORNBERGER
ANDRE V. JOHNSON, JR.
STEVE JOHNSON
SHEREE SAMPLE-HUGHES

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
HOUSE RURAL CAUCUS

February 23, 2026

The Honorable J. Sandy Bartlett
Chair, Judiciary Committee
101 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Chair Bartlett, Vice Chair Davis, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee:

On behalf of the Rural Caucus, we are writing to express our support for **HB 130 Criminal Law - Deed Fraud - Prohibition, Deed Fraud Prevention Grant Fund, and Task Force to Study Deed Fraud.**

This bill would prohibit the intentional fraudulent sale, conveyance, or lease of real property by a person who does not own the real property and establish a Deed Fraud Prevention Grant Fund and a task force to study Deed Fraud. Rural communities have recently experienced attempted fraudulent sales.

For these reasons, the Rural Caucus supports the passage of HB 130 and requests a favorable report.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jefferson L. Ghrist".

Delegate Jefferson L. Ghrist
Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Natalie Ziegler".

Delegate Natalie Ziegler
Co-Chair