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CHIEF DEPUTY MINORITY WHIP

Ways and Means Committee

Subcommittees
Finance Resources
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Chair
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HB 676 - Real Property - Recording Costs - Exemption

Dear Chairman Barve & Members of the Committee:

House Bill 676 is a minor bill which clarifies language in the real property article ensuring that the State of Maryland and any unit thereof is exempted from recordation fees associated with land transfers by Clerks of the Circuit Court across Maryland.

As you can see in the bill file, this legislation would simply codify an advisory opinion from the Attorney General's office from 2001 wherein the Attorney General opined that, even though the statute is silent as to Maryland State Government and subsidiary agencies, recordation fees would not be applied.

The legislation makes real property article section 3-603 uniform with the provision of courts and judicial proceeding article section 7-202, which exempts the state and its subsidiary units from filing fees assessed by the clerks of the courts in connection with litigation matters.

This legislation was brought to my attention by our local clerk of the Circuit Court and is supported by the Circuit Court Clerks Association in order to clarify and codify this aspect of law.

I would ask for a favorable report on HB 676.