

**MARYLAND JUDICIAL CONFERENCE
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Hon. Mary Ellen Barbera
Chief Judge

187 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401

MEMORANDUM

TO: House Judiciary Committee
FROM: Legislative Committee
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.
410-260-1523
RE: House Bill 18
Landlord and Tenant – Eviction Action – Right to Counsel
DATE: January 21, 2021
(2/17)
POSITION: Support

The Maryland Judiciary supports House Bill 18. This bill would create a right to legal representation for covered individuals and provides supervision through the Attorney General's Office.

The Judiciary supports this bill as it will enhance access to justice in rent court matters and meets an unmet need. It will be essential, however, that significant funding be provided going forward to ensure the program can continue into the future.

cc. Hon. Wanika Fisher
Judicial Council
Legislative Committee
Kelley O'Connor