



House Bill 724 – Access to Counsel in Evictions Special Fund - Funding

Position: Favorable

The Maryland REALTORS® supports HB 724 which would mandate an \$11.8 million from the abandoned property fund to be used for the Access to Counsel in Evictions Special Fund.

The REALTORS® have opposed other access to counsel legislation because those bills both increase the costs of the eviction surcharge and make it unrecoverable. This legislation identifies the abandoned property fund as the source of funding for access to counsel. It is also important to note, that some lower-income owners of real property who are not represented by our members or others, could also use help before the courts. Like some tenants, these Marylanders can also be intimidated by the court process and may not be able to represent themselves in a competent way.

The Maryland REALTORS® recommends a favorable report.

**For more information contact bill.castelli@mdrealtor.org,
susan.mitchell@mdrealtor.org, theresa.kuhns@mdrealtor.org;
lisa.may@mdrealtor.org**