



MARYLAND STATE TREASURER
Dereck E. Davis

Testimony of the Maryland State Treasurer's Office

House Bill 388: Bond Sales – Notification of the Public

Position: Favorable

House Appropriations Committee

February 7, 2023

As part of a broader effort to modernize office policies and practices, the State Treasurer's Office (STO) respectfully requests that the Committee give favorable consideration to House Bill 388.

One of three bills introduced by the Joint Committee on the Management of Public Funds on STO's behalf, this legislation enables the State to provide notice of an upcoming bond sale in different and more cost-effective ways.

Under State Finance and Procurement, § 8-123, STO is required to provide notice of an upcoming sale at least 10 days before the sale. The law is silent as to the manner in which notice must be provided, except for postponements, for which notice "may be given by Munifacts News Service," a publication that has been defunct since the 1990s. House Bill 388 repeals the obsolete reference and replaces it with the successor publication (The Municipal Market Monitor – TM3).

House Bill 388 further specifies that STO can satisfy the statutory notice requirement by "such other method as the Treasurer deems appropriate." This will enable STO to post notice electronically, thereby saving the State between \$3,000-\$5,000 each bond sale.

The State's bond counsel indicates that this legislation would make preparation for the bond sale more efficient and cost-effective and would not pose any downside.

For the foregoing reasons, STO requests that the Committee give House Bill 388 a favorable report. Please contact Laura Atas, Deputy Treasurer for Public Policy (latas@treasurer.state.md.us), with any questions.