

January 30, 2024

The Honorable William C. Smith Jr.
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD, 21401

RE: Support – SB 147 - Real Property - Access to Counsel in Evictions Program - Mandated Reports

Dear Chair Smith:

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees statewide, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding **Real Property - Access to Counsel in Evictions Program - Mandated Reports** MBIA **Supports** the Act in its current version.

Senate Bill 147 would seek to alter the information relating to the Access to Counsel in Eviction Program required to be reported by the Maryland Legal Services Corporation each year to include disaggregation by case type, the amount paid to attorneys for each case managed, the geographic distribution of cases, disposition of cases decided, amount of state and federal funds allocated to each designated organization, and the number of individuals provided legal representation for multiple cases.

This bill would increase the level of transparency when it comes to cases before the eviction program. Currently, the level of information provided is too general or not enough. Senate Bill 147 would allow the Maryland Legal Services Corporation better understand these types' of cases: identify where they are happening and the amount of money spent.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee give this measure a favorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or lgraf@marylandbuilders.org.

cc: Members of the House Senate JPR Committee