



Senate Bill 147 – Real Property – Access to Counsel in Evictions Program – Mandated Reports

Position: Support

The Maryland REALTORS® is one of the largest trade associations in Maryland with over 30,000 real estate licensees. In addition to representing home sellers and homebuyers, many REALTORS® manage rental property for residential owners. The REALTORS® support SB 147 which will amend a current reporting requirement of the Maryland Legal Services Corporation (MLSC).

MLSC is required to report annually on the number of cases in which it provides legal representation for tenants in households at 50% or less of median income. The report requires the following:

- Information and metrics on case outcomes, and a
- Summary of the engagement and education of tenants

SB 147 provides additional direction in terms of the information provided annually. Under the bill, the report would detail the number of cases and denote which were nonpayment of rent, tenant holding over, or breach of lease. Further, the report would be required to include the amount of money paid to attorneys for each case along with information on the results of the case and the number of clients with multiple cases among other items.

REALTORS® believe additional data can help clarify the need for future funding of tenant representation and provide additional detail on how these resources are allocated among different legal actions. The REALTORS® encourage a favorable report.

**For more information contact lisa.may@mdrealtor.org or
christa.mcgee@mdrealtor.org**