

SENATE BILL 354

K3, L1, N1

4lr1002
CF 4lr1001

By: **Senators Waldstreicher and Jackson**

Introduced and read first time: January 16, 2024

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Montgomery County and Prince George's County – Rent Court Workforce**
3 **Solutions Pilot Program**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Rent Court Workforce Solutions Pilot Program in
5 Montgomery County and Prince George's County to provide certain individuals with
6 certain resources and information on workforce development and employment
7 opportunities; and generally relating to the Rent Court Workforce Solutions Pilot
8 Program.

9 BY adding to
10 Article – Real Property
11 Section 8–1001 through 8–1006 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 10. Rent Court
12 Workforce Solutions Pilot Program”
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2023 Replacement Volume)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
16 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

17 **Article – Real Property**

18 **SUBTITLE 10. RENT COURT WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS PILOT PROGRAM.**

19 **8–1001.**

20 **(A) IN THIS SUBTITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**
21 **INDICATED.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(B) "COVERED INDIVIDUAL" MEANS A DEFENDANT TENANT OF A RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTY IN A FAILURE TO PAY RENT CASE FILED UNDER § 8-401 OF THIS TITLE.

(C) "DESIGNATED ORGANIZATION" MEANS THE FISCAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT OF A COUNTY'S LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD.

(D) "PILOT PROGRAM" MEANS THE RENT COURT WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS PILOT PROGRAM.

8-1002.

THIS SUBTITLE APPLIES ONLY IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY AND PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY.

8-1003.

(A) THERE IS A RENT COURT WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS PILOT PROGRAM.

(B) THE PURPOSE OF THE PILOT PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE COVERED INDIVIDUALS WITH:

(1) WORKFORCE RESOURCES; AND

(2) INFORMATION ON:

(I) WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT; AND

(II) EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

(C) A DESIGNATED ORGANIZATION SHALL ADMINISTER THE PILOT PROGRAM.

8-1004.

(A) THE DISTRICT COURT SHALL ALLOW AT LEAST ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM A DESIGNATED ORGANIZATION TO OPERATE IN A DISTRICT COURT COURTHOUSE ON DAYS ON WHICH CASES FILED FOR A FAILURE TO PAY RENT UNDER § 8-401 OF THIS TITLE ARE HEARD.

1 **(B) NOTHING IN THIS SUBTITLE MAY BE CONSTRUED TO REQUIRE THE**
2 **DISTRICT COURT TO ALLOW A REPRESENTATIVE FROM A DESIGNATED**
3 **ORGANIZATION TO OPERATE WITHIN A COURTROOM.**

4 **(C) IF BOTH PARTIES AGREE, THE COURT MAY GRANT A CONTINUANCE OR A**
5 **STAY OF AN EVICTION PROCEEDING FOR A FAILURE TO PAY RENT SO THAT A**
6 **COVERED INDIVIDUAL MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE PILOT PROGRAM.**

7 **8-1005.**

8 **ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2026, AND EACH JANUARY 1 THEREAFTER, A**
9 **DESIGNATED ORGANIZATION SHALL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN**
10 **ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE GENERAL**
11 **ASSEMBLY ON THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS THAT WERE CONNECTED TO**
12 **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS OR EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**
13 **THROUGH THE PILOT PROGRAM.**

14 **8-1006.**

15 **FOR EACH OF FISCAL YEARS 2026 THROUGH 2028, THE GOVERNOR SHALL**
16 **INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF:**

17 **(1) \$100,000 TO THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE OF THE**
18 **COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO BE USED FOR THE PILOT PROGRAM; AND**

19 **(2) \$100,000 TO THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY OFFICE OF THE**
20 **COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO BE USED FOR THE PILOT PROGRAM.**

21 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June**
22 **1, 2024.**