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Bill No.: _____
Requested: _____
Committee: _____

Drafted by: Edwards
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By: **Prince George's County Delegation**

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Prince George's County – Seals on Wheels Pilot Program

PG 402–27

FOR the purpose of establishing the Prince George's County Seals on Wheels Pilot Program in Prince George's County to create a mobile access point for residents of Prince George's County to receive approved Clerk of the Circuit Court and Register of Wills services; and generally relating to the Prince George's County Seals on Wheels Pilot Program.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That:

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) "Justice data" means any information held by government agencies, no matter its form or source, that is potentially useful in understanding how people experience justice problems and interact with government programs relating to justice problems.

(3) "Pilot Program" means the Prince George's County Seals on Wheels Pilot Program.

EXPLANATION: **CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**
[Brackets**]** indicate matter deleted from existing law.

(b) (1) There is a Prince George's County Seals on Wheels Pilot Program in Prince George's County.

(2) The purpose of the Pilot Program is to:

(i) create a practical, community–based access point where residents of Prince George's County can receive approved Clerk of the Circuit Court and Register of Wills services closer to where they live; and

(ii) reduce avoidable courthouse trips, improve document readiness, connect residents to trusted legal resources, and identify which services can be delivered safely and effectively outside Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

(c) (1) The Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court in Prince George's County and the Register of Wills in Prince George's County shall collaborate to administer the Pilot Program.

(2) The Pilot Program shall convene representatives of the Maryland Judiciary, the Comptroller, and the Prince George's County government to plan, seek funding, and assist in the execution of the Pilot Program.

(d) The Pilot Program shall:

(1) provide the following to participants of the Pilot Program:

(i) expungement and record–relief education, case search assistance, forms, checklists, document readiness, and legal aid connections;

(ii) public circuit court and land record searches and eligible copy requests;

(iii) family law, guardianship, name change, and civil and criminal court navigation;

(iv) information on marriage license requirements, document prescreening, and certified copy information;

(v) DD–214 information and veteran's record assistance;

(vi) jury service education and digital court access and navigation;

(vii) probate and estate administration orientation;

(viii) small estate forms, checklists, and appointment scheduling;

(ix) searches of opened estate records and eligible record requests;

(x) will safekeeping and legacy education;

(xi) estate planning, survivor, beneficiary, and inheritance information;

(xii) connections to probate attorneys, legal aid, grief support, and estate–planning clinics; and

(xiii) any other services the Pilot Program deems appropriate;

(2) collect the following information regarding the administration of the Pilot Program:

(i) the number of individuals served by the Pilot Program;

(ii) the following information regarding each participant in the Pilot Program:

1. age;

2. race and ethnicity;

3. income;

4. language preference;

5. disability status;

6. veteran status;

7. zip code and municipality;

8. the service or case provided to the participant by the Pilot Program; and

9. whether the service was delivered in person, by telephone, by a virtual method, or at a mobile services center provided by the Pilot Program; and

(iii) the following outcome measures:

1. whether the participant successfully completed court filings;

2. whether the participant avoided procedural errors;

3. whether the participant obtained the needed services; and

4. whether the participant received services in a timely manner;

(3) adapt the federal Justice Department's framework regarding justice data for local use to identify the barriers in accessing justice data needed to resolve justice problems at the local level when engaging with the justice system in Prince George's County; and

(4) determine whether permanent mobile or satellite services are needed.

(e) (1) On or before October 1, 2028, the Pilot Program shall report its findings to:

(i) in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article:

1. the members of the Prince George's County Delegation to the Maryland General Assembly;

2. the House Judiciary Committee; and

3. the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee;

(ii) the Office of the Comptroller;

(iii) the Administrative Office of the Courts;

(iv) the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Maryland;

(v) the Maryland Access to Justice Commission of the Maryland State Bar Association;

(vi) the Orphans' Court for Prince George's County;

(vii) the Prince George's County Executive;

(viii) the Chair of the Prince George's County Council; and

(ix) all legal services providers and bar associations serving Prince George's County.

(2) Any data included in the report required by this section shall be disaggregated.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2027. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2029, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.