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**NACBA Applauds Passage of Maryland Homestead Exemption Legislation;
Commits to Continued Consumer Debtor Reform Advocacy**

Annapolis, MD — April 14, 2026 — The National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys (NACBA) today applauded the final passage of Senate Bill 939, landmark legislation establishing Maryland’s first state homestead exemption in bankruptcy. The bill now heads to Governor Wes Moore for signature.

Once enacted, effective June 1, 2026, SB 939 will create a \$125,000 homestead exemption for Maryland bankruptcy filers, applicable to both single and joint filers, marking a significant advancement in modernizing Maryland’s consumer bankruptcy protections.

NACBA has worked extensively throughout the legislative session in support of Maryland exemption reform and partnered closely with advocates, legislators, and stakeholders to advance protections for Maryland families.

“We are proud to see Maryland take this important step toward modernizing its bankruptcy laws,” said Krista D’Amelio, NACBA Director of Government Affairs. “Creating a meaningful homestead exemption will provide Maryland families with greater housing stability and a stronger opportunity for a true financial fresh start. This is a victory for consumer bankruptcy debtors across the state.”

NACBA extends special thanks to Maryland Legal Aid for its continued partnership and advocacy throughout the legislative process, as well as to Senator Shaneka Henson and Delegate Christopher Tomlinson for their leadership on exemption reform efforts.

While NACBA celebrates the passage of SB 939, the organization noted disappointment that House Bill 1520, broader exemption modernization legislation supported by NACBA, did not advance before the close of session.

HB 1520 would have further modernized Maryland’s outdated exemption framework by increasing protections for household goods, vehicles, tax credits, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. Despite unanimous support in the House Judiciary Committee, the bill ultimately stalled before final passage.

“This year’s progress demonstrates that Maryland lawmakers understand the need to modernize exemption protections, but our work is far from over,” said Richard “Hal” Nemeth, President of NACBA. “The creation of a homestead exemption is a



tremendous achievement, but Maryland families still deserve broader protections that reflect today's economic realities. NACBA will continue working with lawmakers and stakeholders to build on this momentum next session.”

NACBA remains committed to advancing comprehensive bankruptcy reform in Maryland and nationwide to ensure bankruptcy remains a meaningful pathway to financial recovery for working families.

About NACBA

The National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys (NACBA) is the only national organization dedicated to supporting consumer bankruptcy attorneys and protecting the rights of consumer debtors. Formed in 1992, NACBA now has more than 1,500 members located in all 50 states and Puerto Rico.

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