

Charles County Commissioners 2022 Preliminary Legislative Package



County Commissioners of
Charles County, Maryland

The Hon. Reuben B. Collins, II, President
The Hon. Bobby Rucci, Vice President
The Hon. Buddy "BJ" Bowling
The Hon. Thomasina Coates
The Hon. Amanda M. Stewart, M.Ed.

County Commissioner 2022 Preliminary Legislative Proposals

1. A proposal to amend §3.501 of the Education Article, Ann. Code MD, the composition of the Charles County Board of Education to "... protect and promote the public interest" by requiring that certain members be elected by Commissioner District. 5.
Proposed by: Ms. Latina L. Wilson
2. A proposal to amend the qualifications required to run for Charles County Board of Education in Maryland Education [Article] Sec 3.501 from 21 years old and a registered voter for 3 years to 18 years old and a registered voter for 1 year. 6.
Proposed by: Mr. Desmond Rosier
3. A proposal to adopt legislation which ensures that the public has the opportunity to work as active partners with County Governments when an Amendment to the County's Comprehensive Plan is proposed. 7.
Proposed by: Ms. Nancy Schertler
4. A proposal to modify the Charles County multiple licensing plan law to permit certain Charles County Class B License Types to increase the number of alcoholic beverage licenses held by a single individual within the Charles County limits from one license to two licenses. 8.
Proposed by: David J. Martinez, Esq.
5. A proposal to amend Ann. Cod MD, Alcoholic Beverages Article, to allow removal of an individual/corporate licensee and hold an alcoholic beverage license inactive or in abeyance for a certain amount of time, until a substitute licensee can qualify to hold the license. (Reintroduced from 2021 Legislative Package). 13.
Proposed by: Guy Black, Chairman
Board of License Commissioners
6. A proposal for release/forgiveness of financial student loan education debt for persons over 60 years old. 14.
Proposed by: Catherine Taggart
7. A proposal to allow a person receiving Federal/State financial benefits the ability to work and receive additional financial compensation. 15.
Proposed by: Catherine Taggart
8. A proposal for enhanced penalties and requirements for all dirt bike, all-terrain and ATV owners to register their bikes with the Department of Motor Vehicles. 16.
Proposed by: Dr. Karla Kornegay
9. A proposal to create a Healthy Resources Bill requiring all law enforcement/mental health personnel to have info booklets on public/nonprofit resources for drugs, domestic violence, suicide prevention, AA, etc. 18.
Proposed by: Carlos Childs
10. A proposal for a City Incorporation Bill changing the current process of becoming a municipality. 19.
Proposed by: Carlos Childs
11. A proposal to implement a Healthy Food Act which will impose a tax on corporate owned grocery stores that are not located in low-income areas, to be used to build, maintain, and help offset prices at the public owned grocery stores and/or provide tax incentives to build co-op grocery stores in food deserts. 20.
Proposed by: Carlos Childs

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| 12. | A proposal to implement a Building Refurbishment Fund ...from monthly fines and fees put on the owners of certain vacant commercial property. | 21. |
| | Proposed by: Carlos Childs | |
| 13. | A proposal for a Tenant & Code Violation Bill which would require every commercial and/or residential landlord to provide each tenant a paper and virtual copy of Maryland's tenant's rights laws upon signing the contract and lease renewal. | 22. |
| | Proposed by: Carlos Childs | |
| 14. | A proposal to authorize the establishment of a Kennedy Krieger satellite office for the Center for Autism and Related Disorders. | 23. |
| | Proposed by: Jamila A Smith | |
| 15. | A proposal for the Creation of a local Human Relations and Civil Rights Commission in Charles County. | 25. |
| | Proposed by: Dyotha R. Sweat, President
Charles County NAACP | |
| 16. | A proposal for a Bond Authorization bill in the amount of \$250,000 for construction of an entrance and lobby from the Memorial Garden and Freedom Stage to the Maryland Veterans Museum at Patriot Park (MVM). | 27. |
| | Proposed by: Lawrence Abell, President
Maryland Veterans Museum | |
| 17. | A proposal for a Development Fund for Workforce Housing. | 31. |
| | Proposed by: Theresa Kuhns, Vice President, Government Affairs
Southern Maryland Association of REALTORS® | |
| 18. | A proposal for a Mortgage Forbearance Fund to be created by a portion of the proposed rental registration fees. | 31. |
| | Proposed by: Theresa Kuhns, Vice President, Government Affairs
Southern Maryland Association of REALTORS | |
| 19. | A proposal for a first-time homeowners' tax credit. | 32. |
| | Proposed by: Theresa Kuhns, Vice President, Government Affairs
Southern Maryland Association of REALTOR | |
| 20. | A proposal to authorizes Charles County government to grant a property tax credit against the county or municipal property tax imposed on a dwelling house of certain disabled veterans. | 33. |
| | Proposed by: Chairman Kabir Tompkins, Sr., Chairman
Charles County Commission for Veterans Affairs | |
| 21. | A proposal to allow Sunday hunting in Charles County during the Maryland legal hunting season and authorize the Department of Natural Resources to allow a person to hunt on each Sunday of the game bird and game mammal season in Charles County. | 36. |
| | Proposed by: Robert A. Boarman | |
| 22. | A proposal to implement a County Compost Program. | 37. |
| | Proposed by: Matthew W. Perez, Jr. | |

23. A proposal to re-introduce HB 335/SB432 - Charles County - Public Safety - Buildings Used for Agritourism (from 2020 Legislative Session), which proposes to add Charles County to the list of counties where an existing agricultural building used for Agritourism is not considered a change of occupancy that requires a building permit under certain circumstances. 38.
Proposed by: Commissioner Gilbert "B.J." Bowling, District 1
24. A proposal to amend Section 9-310 of the Tax Property Article, Ann. Code MD, to allow for implementation of a real property tax credit for volunteer fire & EMS, (current, retired, and surviving spouses of deceased volunteers receiving a benefit). 40.
Proposed by: Commissioner Gilbert "B.J." Bowling, District 1
25. A proposal to amend the definition of "agricultural land management practices" found in COMAR 26.17.02.02, to expressly include the acts of clearing and grading land in preparation for agricultural land management practices, in order to ensure the activity is exempt from the StormwaterWater Management Plan requirements, described in COMAR 26.17.02.09. 41.
Proposed by: Commissioner Vice President Bobby Rucci, District 2
26. A proposal to provide housing relief for seniors in the form of mandated rent stabilization. 42.
Proposed by: Commissioner President Reuben B. Collins, II. Esq.
27. A proposal to implement a higher property tax rate on properties deemed blighted. 43.
Proposed by: Commissioner President Reuben B. Collins, II. Esq.
28. A proposal to enable the use of Public Private Partnership (PPP) process for school construction projects - Interagency Commission on School Construction (IAC). 44.
Proposed by: Commissioner President Reuben B. Collins, II. Esq.
29. A proposal to ensure posting notifications of newly introduced legislation and enacted legislation is sufficient when the bill is posted to an internet website ordinarily used by the public body to provide information to the public. 45.
Proposed by: Associate County Attorney Danielle Mitchell
30. A proposal to implement a dress code policy in Charles County stores and restaurants. 16.
Proposed by: Dr. Karla Kornegay
31. A proposal to implement a noise ordinance, especially as it relates to music emanating from vehicles. 17.
Proposed by: Dr. Karla Kornegay
32. A proposal to amend the 2016 Charles County Comprehensive Plan to redefine the "continued operations" of the Maryland Airport for educational purposes rather than commercial. 24.
Proposed by: Jamila A Smith

August 13, 2021

Dear Board of Commissioners,

I respectfully request the modification of Senate Bill 749, known as the Charles County Board of Education Membership Alterations.

The fundamental reason for this request is to protect and promote the public interest.

This bill alters the composition of a governing body in Charles County without fair and reasonable consideration by the citizens of Charles County. Secondly, the rationale for the bill was predicated on the support of a very small percentage of the public and does provide a clear explanation of its purpose nor its benefit to the school district.

The recommended amendment at minimum will at least align with the county government process of electing officials by district.

Specifically, our proposed amendment would read as follows:

3-501. (A) IN THIS SECTION, (a) (B) (1) The Charles County Board of Education consists of: (1) (I) Seven [voting] ELECTED members; and (2) (II) One [nonvoting] student member. (2) OF THE SEVEN ELECTED MEMBERS: (I) FOUR MEMBERS SHALL: 1. BE ELECTED FROM EACH OF THE FOUR COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICTS; 2. BE RESIDENTS OF THE SCHOOL BOARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT FROM WHICH THE MEMBER IS ELECTED; AND 2. FOUR MEMEBERS SHALL BE ELECTED ONLY BY THE VOTERS OF THAT SCHOOL BOARD COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT; AND (II) THREE MEMBERS SHALL BE ELECTED FROM THE COUNTY AT LARGE.

Best regards,



Latina L. Wilson
Private Citizens
7910 Harwood Lane
Port Tobacco, MD

Name

Dezmond Rosier

Email

dezmondrosier@gmail.com

Daytime Phone

[REDACTED]

Write us a mesesage:

A proposal to amend the qualifications required to run for Charles County Board of Education inMd. EDUCATION Code Ann. § 3-501 from 21 years old and a registered voter for 3 years to18 years old and a registered voter for 1 year. The only qualification previously was being a registered voter, but the qualifications were raised last year (HB 1060/SB 749). This amendment would make the Board of Education qualifications comparable to neighboring counties.

Do you have a preferred contact method?

Please reply by email address

Thank you,

Charles County, MD

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8/13/2021

2022 Legislative Request

Office of the County Attorney
200 Baltimore Street
La Plata, MD 20646

Submitted by:
Nancy Schertler
14725 Banks O'Dee Rd
Newburg, MD 20664
nschertler@gmail.com

Purpose of proposed legislation: To ensure that the public has the opportunity to work as active partners with County Governments when an Amendment to the County's Comprehensive Plan is proposed.

Intent of proposed legislation: to require an in-person Town Hall or Community Outreach meeting whenever a Comprehensive Plan Amendment is initiated by a County's elected governing body or appointed Commission. The purpose of this meeting, to be hosted by the body that initiated the CPA, is to allow and encourage *public participation, where Citizens are active partners in the planning and implementation of community initiatives.*ⁱ This forum will allow the initiating body to explain why the CPA is needed, to address State review comments, and to allow for question and answer sessions between the public and the meeting host. This meeting will be scheduled after the State Clearinghouse has submitted their review comments of, and suggested revisions to, the amendment, and prior to the Planning Commission's public hearing on the amendment.

It is acknowledged that during a state of emergency, an in-person meeting might be inconsistent with recommendations from the department of public health. In the event of a Local State of Emergency, the Town Hall/ Community Outreach meeting and any subsequent public hearings must be postponed until the State of Emergency has been lifted and the meeting can be held in person.

Note: This legislative request represents the intent of the legislation requested, not the text of proposed legislation.

ⁱ All comprehensive plans must relate to the 12 visions of smart growth. Public Participation is one of the twelve visions of Smart Growth.

Document Hand Delivered to:
Charles County Government Building
200 Baltimore St.
La Plata, MD 20664
8/13/2021

By: Nancy Schertler

Nancy Schertler

Maryland Alcoholic Beverages-Multiple Licensing Plans

Purpose:

To promote economic development by permitting smaller business owners to have up to two alcoholic beverage licenses within Charles County.

To promote economic development by permitting hotels to have up to two alcoholic beverage licenses within Charles County.

Proposal:

To modify the Charles County multiple licensing plan law to permit certain Charles County Class B License Types to increase the number of alcoholic beverage licenses held by a single individual within the Charles County limits from one license to two licenses.

Relevant Code Sections:

State of Maryland- Alcoholic Beverage Article Section 4-203

Charles County- Alcoholic Beverage Article Section 18-1605

Affected license types:

Class B-H (Hotel); Section 18-902 Alcoholic Beverage Article

Class B-R (Restaurant); Section 18-904 Alcoholic Beverage Article

Class B-RB (Restaurant/Bar); Section 18-905 Alcoholic Beverage Article

Example of currently permitted multiple licenses by Section 4-203 of the Alcoholic Beverage Article.

Multiple licenses can be issued by different local liquor boards to the same individuals. In other words, licenses can be issued to the same individual if it is across county lines.

Currently permitted:

Waldorf, Pinefield Shopping Center and Brandywine Crossing (PG)- 1.7 miles

Hughesville and Charlotte Hall (St. Mary's)- 2.0 miles

Bryans Road Shopping Center and Manokeek Village Center Shopping Center (PG)- 4.5 miles

Benedict and Prince Frederick (Calvert)-7.0 miles

Example of current non-permitted multiple licenses by Section 4-203 of the Alcoholic Beverage Article.

Some Approximate Charles County Distances:

1. Waldorf-La Plata 9.0 miles

2. Waldorf-Bryans Road 11.0 miles
3. Waldorf-Indian Head 16.0 miles
4. Waldorf-Benedict 17.0 miles
5. Waldorf-Cobb Island 31.0 miles
6. La Plata-Bryans Road 10.0 miles
7. La Plata-Indian Head 13.0 miles
8. La Plata-Benedict 19.0 miles
9. La Plata-Cobb Island 22.0 miles

Counties currently permitting multiple Class B licenses within their own county limits:

Anne Arundel – 2 Class B limit; up to 10 for Class B-BLX

Baltimore City- 5 Class B limit

Baltimore County-12 Class B limit

Calvert County- 4 Class B-BLX limit

Charles County-6 Class B-BLX limit

Harford County-9 Class B limit

Howard County- 5 Class B limit; 8 Class BLX limit

Montgomery County-10 Class B limit

Prince George’s County-4 Class B limit, some geographic restrictions; 15 Class B-BLX limit; unlimited Class B-H (Hotel)

Worcester County (location of Ocean City)-3 Class B limit, but with variations for different license types that may permit up to 9.

Current Charles County Law: Currently Charles County permits an individual to hold up to six Class B-BLX licenses within Charles County, but the license type requires a seating capacity of at least 150 and capital investment of at least \$550,000, thus limiting smaller business owners.

Existing Charles County Class B-BLX licenses:

1. Applebee’s La Plata
2. Buffalo Wild Wings
3. Carrabba’s
4. Famous Dave’s
5. Hooter’s
6. Longhorn Steakhouse
7. Olive Garden
8. Outback La Plata

Existing Charles County Class B-BLX licenses (continued):

9. Outback Waldorf
10. Red Lobster
11. Red Robin
12. Silver Diner
13. TGI Friday's
14. Texas Roadhouse

Existing Charles County Multiple Licensing Plan Statute:

Md. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES Code Ann. § 18-1605

- [MD - Annotated Code of Maryland](#)
- [ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES](#)
- [DIVISION II. PROVISIONS AFFECTING INDIVIDUAL JURISDICTIONS](#)
- [TITLE 18. CHARLES COUNTY](#)
- [SUBTITLE 16. LICENSING CONDITIONS; MULTIPLE LICENSING PLANS](#)
- [PART II. MULTIPLE LICENSING PLANS](#)

§ 18-1605. Class B-BLX (luxury restaurant) license

(a) Established. -- There is a Class B-BLX (luxury restaurant) on-sale beer, wine, and liquor license.

(b) Scope of authorization. --

(1) The Board may issue the license for use by a luxury-type restaurant that has:

(i) a capital investment of at least \$ 550,000 for dining room facilities and kitchen equipment, not including the cost of land, buildings, or leases; and

(ii) seating for at least 150 individuals.

(2) The license authorizes the on-premises consumption of beer, wine, and liquor.

(c) Six-license limit. -- A person may not have a direct or indirect interest in any combination in more than six Class B-BLX licenses.

(d) Presumption of indirect interest. -- An indirect interest is presumed to exist between any combination of persons if any of the following conditions exist between them:

(1) a common parent company;

(2) a franchise agreement;

(3) a licensing agreement;

- (4) a concession agreement;
 - (5) dual membership in a chain of businesses commonly owned and operated;
 - (6) a sharing of directors, stockholders, partners, or members, or a sharing of directors, stockholders, partners, or members of parents or subsidiaries;
 - (7) common direct or indirect sharing of profit from the sale of alcoholic beverages; or
 - (8) a sharing of a common trade name, trademark, logo, or theme, or mode of operation identifiable by the public.
- (e) Board to define "luxury-type restaurant".** -- Subject to the requirements of subsection (b) of this section, the Board shall define "luxury-type restaurant" by regulation.
- (f) Fee.** -- The annual license fee is \$ 2,400.

History

An. Code 1957, art. 2B, § 6-201(j)(7)(i), (iii)-(vii); 2016, ch. 41, § 2; 2018, ch. 12, § 1.

Proposed Addition to Charles County Multiple Licensing Plan Statute:

§ 13-1606. Class B licenses

- (a) Maximum allowable number of interests in licenses.** -- The Board may allow a person to obtain a direct or indirect interest in, in addition to one or more licenses issued in another jurisdiction or state, not more than 2 Class B-H (Hotel), B-R (Restaurant) or B-RB (Restaurant/Bar) on-sale --beer, wine, and liquor licenses;
- (b) Presumption of indirect interest.** -- -- An indirect interest is presumed to exist between any combination of persons if any of the following conditions exist between them:
- (1) a common parent company;
 - (2) a franchise agreement;
 - (3) a licensing agreement;
 - (4) a concession agreement;
 - (5) dual membership in a chain of businesses commonly owned and operated;
 - (6) a sharing of directors, stockholders, partners, or members, or a sharing of directors, stockholders, partners, or members of parents or subsidiaries;
 - (7) common direct or indirect sharing of profit from the sale of alcoholic beverages; or
 - (8) a sharing of a common trade name, trademark, logo, or theme, or mode of operation identifiable by the public.

(c) Off-sale privileges not conferred. -- A second or subsequent license described in subsection (a) of this section does not confer an off-sale privilege.

5. A proposal to amend Ann. Cod MD, Alcoholic Beverages Article, to allow removal of an individual/corporate licensee and hold an alcoholic beverage license inactive or in abeyance for a certain amount of time, until a substitute licensee can qualify to hold the license. (Reintroduced from 2021 Legislative Package - no backup available).

Proposed by: Guy Black, Chairman
Board of License Commissioners

As a senior citizens living in these millennial times and Covid 19 Pandemic, I would like to see legislation that supports the Release of Financial Student Loan Educational Debt for those over 60 years of age. This type of legislation will support a generation of Americans who owe student loan debt at last count. Its members are all 60 years old or more.

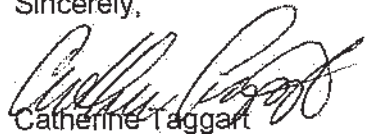
Many of these seniors took out loans to help pay for their children's college tuition and are still paying them off. Others took out student loans for themselves in the wake of the last recession, as they went back to school to boost their own employment prospects.

On average, student loan borrowers in their 60s owed \$33,800 in 2017, up 44% from 2010, according to data compiled for The Wall Street Journal by credit-reporting firm TransUnion. Total student loan debt rose 161% for people aged 60 and older from 2010 to 2017—the biggest increase for any age group, according to the latest data available from TransUnion.

Some are having funds garnished from their Social Security checks. The federal government, which is the largest student loan lender in the country, garnished the Social Security benefits, tax refunds or other federal payments of more than 40,000 people aged 65 and older in fiscal year 2015 because they defaulted on student or parent loan debt. That's up 362% from a decade prior, according to the latest data from the Government Accountability Office.

Paying for higher education is becoming an intergenerational burden, ensnaring more older adults and delaying or battering the retirement plans of many of them. The above report showed that in 2015 "approximately 29 percent of the 6.3 million borrowers ages 50-64 were in default," meaning payments on a loan were at least 270 days past due. And among the 870,000 people over age 65 who had student loan debt that year, 37 percent were in default, making it possible for the federal government to take up to 15 percent out of their monthly. Now is the time to support older Americans with Student Loan Debt with new Legislation!

Sincerely,



Catherine Taggart

15380 Matthews Manor Road

Newburg MD 20664

Email: taggart1015@comcast.net

I am asking for legislation for individuals who are diagnosed early with Mental Illness who are now Adults. The restrictions to not allow them to earn a decent income beyond their government benefits should be a violation under Title IX(that no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal Financial assistance. Mentally Challenged Adults do not have this basic human right to participate as citizens in society to be employed and earn an income above the poverty line but, instead are penalize for earning and working a full-time job. WIC is a program that helps to safeguard low-income families for example beyond their government assistance. These barriers that block mentally challenged individuals who transition into adults, does not allow their full participation in society but keeps them well below the poverty line. I am a parent of an adult who was diagnosed early with Mental Health Illness but, is/willing able body to work! Since Covid-19 he has been hospitalized five (5) times due to isolation and wherein during this period of a Pandemic may stop! The roadblocks without Mental Health legislation that supports their (his) ability to participate as an adult with social living skills and a path to work a full-time job has NOT. I ask you ~~to~~ this question of our Maryland Government which approached makes better financially positive payoffs associated with balancing the desire for Mentally Challenge individuals to provide the desire to ensure they stay poor or earn adequate income to take care of basic self-sufficiency needs. If the goal is to help Mentally Challenged individuals and provide financial incentives or earnings supplements they should be encouraged to work not programs set-up that are beneficial to the government budgets, you have the ability to grant latitude for legislation of this type. Research has suggested that financial capacity is critical to, and possibly the single best thing you may allow for these Mentally Challenged individuals, who are met with monthly basic expenses rent, bills, food, medication. This type of legislation will promote stability and community tenure if Mentally Challenged individuals are allowed to work beyond the Social Security Disability (SSDI benefits allotments) and this may lead to secondary benefits that include reduces mental health hospitalization, physical symptomatology, reduced inpatient and emergency hospitalizations, increased housing retention and reduces homelessness, reduced substance abuse, increased treatment and compliance, overall improved quality of life, reduced victimization related to money, and increase use of general community services that support the Mentally Challenged Individuals. ~~_____~~ I am begging you, like so many other parents who are losing their children to consider creating this legislation at least in the state of Maryland.

God Bless you.

Catherine Saggart
15380 Matthews Manor Rd
Newburg MD 20664

Subject: Legislation: ATV/ All-Terrain and Dirtbike riders and dress code for the public entering establishments in Charles County

[External Content Warning] This message is from an external sender. Please exercise caution when opening attachments and hover over any links before clicking.

Legislation:

Riders will be treated like regular motorists, and they must respond to all Police Officers just like motorists. However, given such equipment is illegal to be operated in neighborhoods, highways, roads, street , public or private property in Charles County. Riders will be charged with as much as six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine and a 1 year suspension of their driver's permit/ license after they're caught riding on any street for a third time. The penalty for a first time offense will be a fine of \$250 and 30 days in jail and 30 days of community service. The penalty for a second time offense will command a \$500 fine and 90 days in jail of valid plus a six-month suspension of their driver's permit/license.

Safety is first and they should not be riding in packs, intimidating pedestrians and intimidating other drivers. Enhancing the penalties in this way really suggests to the folks who are riding these pieces of equipment that if you do so in Charles County, the consequences are going to be severe.

If not the case already, the bill should require all dirt bike, all-terrain and ATV owners to register their bikes with the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Dress code policy in Charles County stores and restaurants:

No sagging pants

No bedroom wear (i.e. bonnets, bedroom slippers, pajamas and the like)

From: [Dr. Karla Kornegay MBA](#)
To: [Lisa A. Bailey](#)
Cc: [Danielle E. Mitchell](#)
Subject: Re: FW: Legislation: ATV/ All-Terrain and Dirtbike riders and dress code for the public entering establishments in Charles County
Date: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 10:21:44 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

[External Content Warning] This message is from an external sender. Please exercise caution when opening attachments and hover over any links before clicking.

Per the below, please add:

Repeat offenders will be fined \$50 per each violation.

On Tue, Aug 17, 2021 at 10:06 AM Dr. Karla Kornegay, MBA <kkornegay43@gmail.com> wrote:
Is it too late to add the following:

Noise ordinance in County and in neighborhoods moved from 10 pm to 9 pm, especially as it relates to individuals driving around blasting music in their vehicles.

Erect signs in neighborhoods to reference, "No Loud Music".

This is an issue that's out of control at this point.

Thank you so much!

On Tue, Aug 17, 2021 at 8:11 AM Dr. Karla Kornegay, MBA <kkornegay43@gmail.com> wrote:
Thank you so much. There were some typos, but not many.

Respectfully,

Karla

On Tue, Aug 17, 2021 at 7:29 AM Lisa A. Bailey <BaileyL@charlescountymd.gov> wrote:

Dear Ms. Kornegay:

I am in receipt of your legislative proposal and will include it in the Preliminary Legislative Package.

The public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, September 14 @ 6 pm. You will receive more information about joining this (virtual) public hearing prior to the hearing.

Thank you & best regards,

Lisa Bailey

Lisa A. Bailey

Legal Office Administrator
Office of the County Attorney
[200 Baltimore St.](#)
[La Plata MD 20646](#)
301/645-0555

Notice: This e-mail is from the Office of the County Attorney. It is intended solely for the use of the individual(s) to whom it is addressed. The contents of this message, together with any attachments, may contain information that is legally privileged, confidential and/or exempt from disclosure. If you believe you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the sender immediately, delete the e-mail from your computer, and do not copy or disclose it to anyone else. ***If you properly received this e-mail as a client, co-counsel, employee, agent or retained expert of Office the County Attorney, you should maintain its contents in confidence in order to preserve any applicable privileges.***

This legislation would require all law enforcement/mental health personnel to have info booklets on public/nonprofit resources for drugs, domestic violence, suicide prevention, AA, ect. Upon responding to a dispatch for one of the issues above officers/mental health personnel will be required to give the victim any information booklet about resources to seek help, including the numbers for various hotlines if in need of non-emergency services.

Proposed by: Carlos Childs

This legislation would change the current process of becoming a municipality. Currently cities/towns can only become incorporated by getting 20% of the city/town population and 25% of the assessed valuation of the real property within the area to sign a petition stating that the residents want to incorporate. Alternatively a petition may be signed by 25% of the registered voters within the area to be incorporated without any involvement of property owners. Once the signatures are obtained the County Commissioners vote on whether to allow the city/town to incorporate. If the Commissioners vote down the incorporation of the city/town, there is no recourse the residents can take other than starting the same process all over again.

The legislation I am proposing would stop this way of incorporating. The new process would require 25% of the registered voters residing in the area to sign a petition stating they would like to incorporate. Once the signatures are obtained the city/town will have a ballot initiative on the next election, where residents will have the chance to vote on whether to become a municipality or not. The petition/ballot initiative can include the ability to let the newly incorporated city/town regulate their zoning within the area.

This new process would remove the County Commissioners from voting on whether the town can incorporate or not. Removing this barrier will make it easier for cities/towns to incorporate. Commissioners are incentivized to keep a city/town from incorporating, since if an area is not a municipality they cannot decide how their tax revenue is used. Waldorf is one of the biggest examples, we are the 5th largest city in the state and the largest in the county. The current population is over 75,000, the number is expected to rise after the census data is shown. Waldorf also has the biggest tax revenue than any other city in the county. However, we lack common infrastructure and services such as rec-centers, park and pavilions, playgrounds, sidewalks in areas, and crosswalks, that cities like La Plata and Indian Head have even though their combined population is less than 1/4 of Waldorf's population. Also, not being incorporated makes it harder for residents to advocate for issues regarding the city/town. Since the city/town have no Mayor or Council, they have to go to the Commissioners who do not all represent the city/town.

Proposed by: Carlos Childs

This legislation will impose a tax on corporate owned grocery stores (i.e. Safeway, Giant, Whole Foods), that are not located in low-income areas. The tax money raised will be used to build, maintain, and help offset prices at the public owned grocery stores and/or provide tax incentives to build co-op grocery stores in food deserts. The public owned grocery stores will only offer fresh fruit, vegetables, and meats. These grocery stores will be prioritized in cities/towns that are lower income and have majority residents on food stamps. The raised tax money will go towards building and maintaining the public owned grocery stores. Local farmers can rent space through the local or county government, or through the co-op to sell their products.

If a co-op grocery store receives funding from this legislation there will be stipulation upon receiving the funds. All products sold at the co-op and public owned grocery store must be able to be purchased with EBT/food stamps, as well as have fixed prices to make sure residents can afford the groceries. Co-ops will also be able to sell more than fresh produce and meats as long as it does not violate any of the stipulations listed above.

(Optional): Imposing an additional fine and fee on any corporate owned grocery store that comes to an area that has an abundance of grocery stores already and is not in a low-income area. The money raised from the fines and fees will go toward building, maintaining, and offsetting prices at the public-owned grocery stores and/or grants to co-op grocery stores.

Proposed by: Carlos Childs

This legislative proposal would create a fund for counties and municipalities to use to refurbish vacant buildings for public services such as; rec-centers, libraries, hospitals, small grocery stores, and learning centers. The money in the fund will come from monthly fines and fees put on the owners of vacant commercial property, whose property is vacant for over 6 months and are not refurbishing the buildings to attract tenants. These fines and fees will stop once the property has either been sold, has tenants, or if the owner can prove they are refurbishing the building. Included with the owner's evidence of improvements being made they will also need to provide a timeline signed off on by a licensed contractor stating the estimated timeline of completion. Once a date of completion has been specified the owner has 45 days after the date to find tenants or sell, if they do not, fines and fees will resume. The money from the fund can also be used to purchase vacant property and refurbish them as well. The fund will also be used to outfit refurbished buildings and other government owned buildings with renewable energy sources (i.e. solar panels).

The stipulations on the fund is money cannot be used to refurbish privately owned buildings.

(Optional repercussions for not paying fines and fees):

- If a property owner fails to pay the fines and fees associated with the commercial property before selling the property, the money that is owed will be taken from the sale price.
- Failure to pay will result in commercial property being forced to sell. Once property is sold the government will recoup the fines and fees, plus any additional charges and the money left will go to the property owner. (Similar to when people don't pay property taxes)
- Failure to pay fines and fees will result in a lien on the commercial property, if lien is on the property for 4 months the owner will be forced to sell.

The government may also use the money in the fund to purchase the commercial property. The unpaid fines and fees will be counted towards the sale price.

Proposed by: Carlos Childs

This legislation would require every commercial and/or residential landlord to provide each tenant a paper and virtual copy of Maryland's tenants rights laws upon signing the contract and lease renewal. Renter must sign off that they have received the information. The information will also include how to contact the government about code violations, housing authority, and government provided housing legal aid. Also making them provide links to Maryland tenants rights laws on their website, prominently displayed.

The legislation would also mandate that the Department of Housing provide random checks on every rental/leased property for code violations in each unit, to make sure there are no codes being broken. The landlord will be unaware of the dates/times these random checks will occur. Tenants will be made aware through registered mail, as far as the date and time these checks will occur and will be given a written report of the findings and if there are any code violations that have been broken in their unit or in the general neighborhood (i.e. parking lot, club house, dumpster, ect.). Once all the findings are made, the landlord will either receive a report letting them know that their property is up to code or notifying them of code violations that need to be fixed. The DoH will provide the landlord with a date that the repairs must be made by.

Proposed by: Carlos Childs

Jamila A. Smith
2466 Rushland Court
Waldorf, MD 20603



Associate County Attorney Danielle Mitchell
200 Baltimore Street
La Plata, MD 20646

Dear Ms. Mitchell:

Enclosed for consideration by the Charles County Commissioners are draft legislative proposals to improve, expand, and harmonize the County Commissioners efforts to enhance the county's economic and educational development. These legislative proposals advance the state of Maryland's efforts outlined in the Blueprint for Maryland. The proposals affirm the Commissioners' recognition that Charles County families may need additional tools and supports as they seek to improve the lives of the county's children and young adults. Further, I believe that Charles County will benefit from providing additional authorities in the support and development of young people. The proposals included in this transmission seek to address these important needs.

The legislative proposals included in this transmission are as follows:

- **To authorize the establishment of a Kennedy Krieger satellite office for the Center for Autism and Related Disorders**

In 2020, the Centers for Disease Control reported that approximately 1 in 54 children in the U.S. is diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD), according to 2016 data. Autism affects all ethnic and socioeconomic groups, although minority groups tend to be diagnosed later and less often. Early intervention affords the best opportunity to support healthy development and deliver benefits across the lifespan (i.e., speech and occupational therapy, behavioral interventions, developmental regression, community programs).

This proposal would allow the state of Maryland to provide funds and other resources to establish the southern Maryland office of the Kennedy Krieger Center for Autism and Related Disorders. The Kennedy Krieger Institute is an internationally recognized institution dedicated to improving the lives of children and young adults with pediatric developmental disabilities and disorders of the brain through patient care, special education, research, and professional training. Kennedy Krieger is in Baltimore, where many families around the world bring their children and young adults with autism and related disorders for assessment and diagnosis and to receive an individualized treatment plan to ensure the best outcomes for these children. Unfortunately, given the distance many families in Charles County and the other southern Maryland counties are unable to access this level of care and support. Additionally, these families are unable to participate in the training and support programs that are offered for children and families given the distance. Programs such as the psychotherapy, social skills groups, speech-language pathology, Headstart Pre-K programs, social work programs could be among the many that are offered to Charles County families and other families in the southern Maryland region.

Having a satellite office would benefit the current residents of Charles County, while also making the area more attractive to families seeking to relocate from outside of the county and supporting military families mobilized to the southern Maryland area.

**Jamila A. Smith
2466 Rushland Court
Waldorf, MD 20603**

- **To amend the 2016 Charles County Comprehensive Plan to redefine the “continued operations” of the Maryland Airport for educational purposes rather than commercial.**

To further the County Commissioners’ economic objectives and the recommendations set-forth in the 5-Year Strategic Plan, this proposal supports the continued operations at the Maryland Airport Aviation Laboratories through the enhancements of its assets and marketability. This proposal supports the establishment of Maryland’s premier aviation program/ hub. The aviation program would be designed to build necessary skills in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) through hands-on activities and flight simulation at the Maryland Airport Aviation Laboratories. The goal of the program is to ensure that county students have an awareness that STEM skills can lead to high-demand careers in the field of aviation (i.e., Aerospace Engineering, Aircraft Maintenance, Aviation Operations Management, Aviation Science, Unmanned Ariel Systems or drones, aerodynamics, design, propulsion, meteorology, atmospheric physics) and build their skills to be employable within these industries, while addressing skill gaps and connecting students to programs that will help build the state’s workforce.

A program of this magnitude would establish Charles County as a central educational and resource aviation hub that would benefit the county academically and economically. An aviation hub of this scale would support quality education for all students K-12, career-and-technical education, and those within higher education programs, as well as the business industry. The aviation program would also better meet the needs of high-ability/ gifted students, to include gifted students with disabilities (i.e., twice exceptional) and students with exceptional abilities. Programs could be offered in partnership with the College of Southern Maryland, other Maryland colleges and universities, the Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland, the military bases throughout the southern Maryland region, and leading international aviation industries.

Unmanned Ariel Systems or drones have begun to take their place as a rapidly-growing technology. Business leaders have become more aware of their potential impact and importance to our lives. Drones support disaster response, crisis management, crop yield improvement, construction, and generally repetitive, dirty, or dangerous missions.

Charles County is uniquely positioned to lead the state in developing and expanding the STEM workforce, while building the county’s educational programs and its economic base.

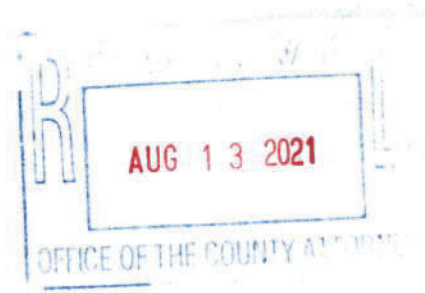
I humbly urge the Charles County Commissioners to give prompt and favorable consideration to these legislative proposals.

Sincerely,



Jamila A. Smith
202-271-5660

Jamila.Smithx3@gmail.com



August 13, 2021

Office of the County Attorney
200 Baltimore Street
La Plata, MD 20646
via email

CCNAACP Legislative Proposal
RE: CREATION OF LOCAL HUMAN RELATIONS AND CIVIL RIGHTS
COMMISSION IN CHARLES COUNTY

The Charles County branch of the NAACP would like to propose creating new legislation that would establish funding to pair trained, unarmed mental health professionals with law enforcement officials to respond to mental health emergencies, and up to 40 hours of crisis intervention training for Charles County law enforcement officials and call takers/dispatch employees.

After an increase in mental health-related cases and incidents that have brought into question the sufficiency of officers' training to respond to mental health crisis calls, it is especially important that police and clinicians collaborate more closely on emergency call responses.

Approximately 20% of police calls for service involve a mental health or substance use crisis. In a recent nationwide survey of more than 2,400 senior law enforcement officials, nearly 84% said mental health-related calls have increased during their careers, and 63% said the amount of time their department spends on mental illness calls has increased during their careers. More than half reported the increased time is due to an inability to refer people to needed treatment. As a result of an increased need, law enforcement departments are teaming with mental health clinicians—including psychologists—out in the field or behind the scenes via crisis intervention training.

Charles County law enforcement now could collaborate with mental health professionals to ensure that people with mental illness in crisis can access mental health care more easily, police experience less trauma and stress, and clinicians have an opportunity to make an even bigger difference in the community.

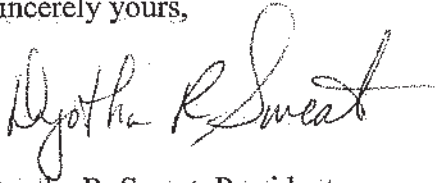
Specifically, the CCNAACP calls for crisis intervention legislation that would enable psychologists and other clinicians to train police officers and call takers/dispatch for up to forty hours on how to determine if an incident they are responding to involves mental illness, apply appropriate de-escalation skills, and triage cases that require psychological intervention rather than making arrests and incarcerating the mentally ill. This course could include teaching officers about

how to interact with neurodivergent individuals and provide a background about mental illness—such as how to differentiate between schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

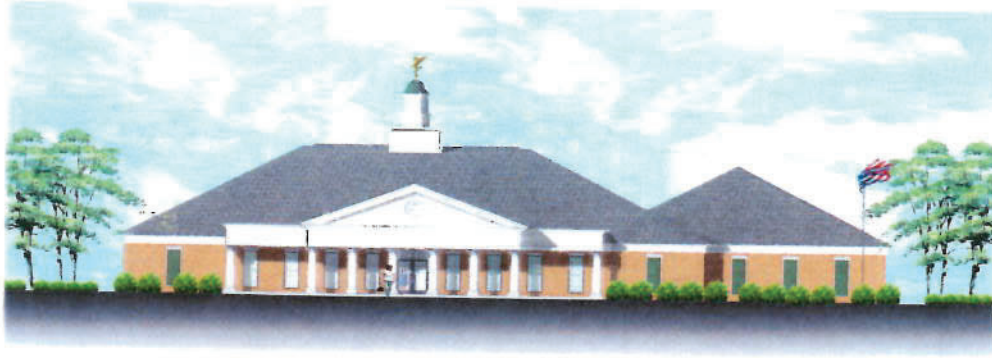
The second part of the legislation would involve how mental health calls are handled by Charles County dispatch and law enforcement officers. Following a model founded in Eugene Oregon, when a call involving a mental health crisis would enter the Charles County non-emergency line, responders send a medic and a trained mental health crisis worker; if the call involves violence or medical emergencies, law enforcement and a trained mental health crisis worker would be contacted. The city of Eugene Oregon estimates that a similar system saves taxpayers an average of \$8.5 million per year by handling crisis calls that would otherwise fall entirely to police.

If you have any questions about our position, please contact me at (240) 776-2828 or you can email our Criminal Justice Chair, Ms. Angela French-Bell, at anfren327@hotmail.com

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dyotha R. Sweat". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "D".

Dyotha R. Sweat, President,
Charles County NAACP
cc. Charles County Commissioners
Delegate Davis



MARYLAND VETERANS MUSEUM at PATRIOT PARK
"Remembering and Honoring America's Heroes"

August 12, 2021

Commissioner Reuben Collins
PO Box 2150
La Plata, MD 20646

Dear Commissioner Collins,

I am forwarding the enclosed request for funding entitled Executive Summary for coordinating with the Charles County Delegation for legislative requests. This provides a brief overview of our request.

After reviewing the request, please advise if there are questions or you wish clarification.

Your assistance is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Abell
President of the Maryland Veterans Museum

LCA/ckk

Enclosure

✓ cc: Wes Adams, County Attorney

Executive Summary

Maryland Veterans Memorial Museum at Patriot Park

Funding Request

OVERVIEW

The budget request is for \$250,000.00 to provide an entrance and lobby from the Memorial Garden and Freedom Stage to the Maryland Veterans Museum at Patriot Park (MVM). This new entrance would facilitate separate events to occur at the same time the Museum accommodates visitors and community groups. This is of great importance since visitors must be turned away if there is a community event. This entrance is also used as the primary entrance for all outdoor programs and activities. The space would improve ADA accessibility for outdoor programs. This is of great importance since many veterans are aging and have disabilities.

The new entrance would allow some existing spaces to be repurposed. It would provide for a separate collections room for valued memorabilia from veterans and their families. The collections area is currently conducted in the conference room. This renders the conference room unusable for museum administration and for community group use, Veterans Administration services, medical services, family bereavement, conferences, educational programs and many other critical activities requiring privacy.

The additional space would also provide for a small gift shop. This would include educational materials for children visiting the museum, crafts developed by veterans, items for sale from the National Park Service.

BACKGROUND

The MVM has enjoyed the support of citizens, volunteers, and members of the following organizations: Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs, Board of Education of Charles County, Charles County Commissioners, Charles County Delegation, Southern Maryland Delegation, veteran organizations, and numerous community groups.

STATEWIDE IMPACTS

Many think of the MVM as simply a museum that houses artifacts and that it does not impact on our lives. It is much more than that. We have developed a summary of some of the more notable activities at the museum. As you will see, the MVM has impact on education, community activities, numerous local and statewide groups, tourism, and economic development as well as local pride and prestige.

- The MVM presents Maryland's contribution to our American Heritage from the Revolutionary War to the current Gulf conflict. The museum has memorabilia from Maryland veterans donated from the entire state.

- The MVM memorial brick garden eulogizes veterans from not only Maryland, but from veterans from other states who are recognized and honored.
- The MVM, with its beautiful Patriot Hall, has hosted numerous Maryland and National Organizations.

Examples include:

- National Association of Black Veterans (NABVETS) Day for Maryland and NABVETS State Regional Conference.
 - The Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary War Route (W3R) National Meeting for 10 states.
 - National Society Daughters of the American Revolution State and Chapter meetings.
 - National Society Sons of the American Revolution Chapter meetings.
 - Archeological Society of Maryland that included every county in Maryland.
 - Disabled American Veterans - DAV regularly holds statewide and regional meetings.
 - Veterans of Foreign Wars - VFW statewide meetings.
 - National Society United States Daughters of 1812 - Maryland Chapter Annual meetings.
 - The MVM holds its annual Patriots Day Festival, Veterans Day ceremonies, and car shows that have attendance from all over Maryland as well as the surrounding states. Patriot Hall is available for the entire community to rent and is free of charge for all veteran organizations.
 - The Museum has hosted numerous veteran groups such as Healing Waters, VA Health Clinics and provides advice on VA Services.
- The National Park Service has designated the MVM as an Information Center and the museum appears on maps that direct Marylanders and visitors on the East Coast to the Museum.
 - The MVM has a Speakers Bureau that provides speakers throughout the Maryland and surrounding states. This service is opened to the general public.
 - MVM has partnered with the W3R for a Maryland Heritage Grant to develop 250 Historical sites throughout the State of Maryland for the 250th Celebration of the American Revolution. This affects most of the the counties in Maryland.

- MVM is working with W3R and the MDOT to develop historical signage and markers throughout the state to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of our nation's founding.
- The MVM is in the process of developing a short animated film on the American Revolution entitled "Be a Patriot". This educational film and activity book will be available to the State of Maryland public schools, and will be also be available to all schools on the W3R trail, nine (9) states and the District of Columbia.
- MVM is working with national and statewide local organizations to preserve historic sites and historic buildings. We are working to develop scenic byways on pristine roads to preserve our Maryland culture. This protects the environment, protects historic resources and provides recreation on a statewide basis.
- MVM is researching to develop the contributions of African Americans, the American Indian, Hispanic Americans, as well as other cultural backgrounds throughout history.
- We are developing programs for justice, equality, diversity, and inclusiveness through our missions locally and throughout the state.
- MVM is working at the federal level for Congressional funding to accomplish infrastructure improvement programs that preserve trails through depressed urban locations in the state.

As you can see, the MVM effort reaches beyond the confines of the Museum's walls to all corners of Maryland. The MVM has worked to develop partnerships with other organizations in Charles County, the Tri-County, and throughout the state to bring to life Maryland's diverse history and the contributions of all Marylanders. This letter represents some of the more important statewide MVM activities that support Veterans, Tourism, Economic Development and Education.

Should you like to discuss our request further or you have other suggestions, please call for an appoint, or better still visit the Museum.

I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully submitted,



Lawrence Abell, President
Maryland Veterans Museum at Patriot Park

President
Tanya Redding

President-Elect
Gregg Kantak

Vice President
Bernadette Cole

Secretary/Treasurer
Camisha Jonas

Immediate Past President
Chris Hill

CEO
Richard J. Marshall

August 11, 2021

To the Charles County Board of County Commissioners:

Regarding the open call for legislative proposals, the Southern Maryland Association of Realtors® is respectfully submitting the following ideas:

- 1. Charles County- Development Fund for Workforce Housing:** As you know, there is a strong need for both affordable and workforce housing in the county to support our community and their families, in particular, Charles County teachers, law enforcement, county staff and hospital workers. For every tax dollar collected from the county property tax over the constant yield, we propose Charles County invest each dollar into a fund which would have the sole purpose of planning the development of workforce housing for the aforementioned groups. In the fiscal year 2022 budget, over \$6.3 million was raised on property owners over the constant yield property tax rate for Charles County. Imagine the difference the county could make by investing back into the housing community. Living and raising a family in the same community where you work should be a reality for those who serve it.
- 2. Charles County- Mortgage Forbearance Fund:** We propose a forbearance fund created by a portion of the proposed rental registration fees from the 15,000 Charles County rental units for all property owners who offer rental units, specifically those who own less than 4 units. Typically, these are the owners who are a small businesses or one-off rental owners. The program should be funded by the same fees the owners are being required to pay annually to operate in the county. For example, if the fee was \$100, we would request \$15 per each \$100 to be placed into a fund for the same owners to utilize if rental income is not paid. In its inception year, over a quarter million dollars would be realized. It would serve a twofold purpose by allowing the owner to pay their mortgage, county taxes and fees to continue to be able to offer rental housing as a county housing provider and to continue to shelter Charles County residents in place. Only owners who are officially registered and who

have paid the fee should be able to access the fund and they must credit the tenant for the amount received. For example, if an owner receives \$1,000 from the fund and the tenant owes \$1,500, the tenant would then owe only \$500 in back rent.

- 3. Charles County-First Time Homeowner Tax Credit-** Homeownership is the key pathway to building wealth and narrowing the racial income and wealth inequality gap. Among all families, the ownership of a primary residence typically accounts for 90% of total wealth. We propose a tax credit to first time homeowners in Charles County as an incentive to realize the American Dream and balance the disparity. Given the 11% increase in the last fiscal year to the Recordation Tax for an additional revenue of \$1.6 million, we believe it is reasonable to provide a 25% property tax credit for first time homebuyers during their first year, with enough coverage in those funds. Again, the county revenues raised from property owners and real estate transactions should be invested into further generating more homeowners to help balance the divide and to continue the revenue funding mechanism of Charles County.

As we continue to battle an unaffordable housing climate, we believe the proposals above will help Charles County residents, support landlord and tenants alike and most importantly, support our mission of fair housing for all community members. If you have any questions, please contact Theresa Kuhns, Vice President of Government Affairs directly.

Sincerely,

Tanya Redding

President, Southern Maryland Association of Realtors®

From: [Julie M. Bryson](#)
To: [Lisa A. Bailey](#)
Cc: [Danielle E. Mitchell](#); [Kabir Tompkins, Sr.](#)
Subject: Legislative Proposal County Tax 20210810 Draft
Date: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 5:37:45 PM
Attachments: [Legislative Proposal County Tax 20210810 draft.docx](#)

Dear Board of County Commissioners and Charles County Delegation,

On behalf of the Charles County Commission for Veterans Affairs and its Chairman Kabir Tompkins, Sr., I respectfully submit the enclosed legislative proposal. This legislation is for consideration during the 2022 legislative season.

As you will see, it is legislation that supports a reduced property tax rate for disabled veterans who have given so much for this country and county. We appreciate your support of this request and want to acknowledge our appreciation of your continued support towards our veteran community.

We look forward to speaking with you in the mid-September public hearing.

Best regards,

Julie Muster Bryson, M.S.

Assistant Chief of Staff
U.S. Army veteran
Commissioners' Office

Charles County Government
200 Baltimore Street • La Plata, MD 20646
E: BrysonJ@CharlesCountyMD.gov
O: **301-645-0699** · Reception: 301-645-0550
www.CharlesCountyMD.gov

Contact us ... we are here to serve you!
[Invite a Commissioner to an event or request a recognition item](#)
[Submit a compliment, complaint, or concern](#)

Connect with Charles County Government on social media:
[Facebook.com/CharlesCounty](https://www.facebook.com/CharlesCounty)
[Twitter.com/CharlesCoMD](https://twitter.com/CharlesCoMD)

Legislative Proposal

Statement Proposal: Charles County disabled veterans may receive a property tax exemption of 50% of the assessed value of his/her primary residence within Charles County, Maryland. The veteran must have a military service-connected disability rating of 50% or more. The benefit will last for the lifetime of the veteran. The exemption is transferrable to surviving spouses. This exemption would go into effect the date the veteran submits his/her disability documentation to the Charles County Government. This overall benefit, e.g. exemption, can begin to take effect from the date the legislation is passed and signed.

This legislation should not interfere or reduce any other Charles County tax benefits awarded to disabled veterans.

Statement of Rationale: Our veteran population has supported every American with his or her service to our country. Therefore, this legislative proposal is to highlight that Charles County is a veteran proud and veteran friendly community.

Bill Summary: The bill authorizes Charles County government grant a property tax credit against the county or municipal property tax imposed on a dwelling house of a disabled veteran. In order to qualify for the property tax credit, the disabled veteran's federal adjusted gross income for the immediately preceding taxable year cannot exceed \$100,000. The amount of the property tax credit is based on the disabled veteran's level of service-connected disability.

The property tax credit is equal to:

- 50% of the county or municipal property tax for a service-connected disability rating of at least 50% but not more than 99%;

A disabled veteran must apply for the property tax credit by providing to the county or municipality (1) a copy of the disabled veteran's discharge certificate from active military, naval, or air service and (2) a certification of the disabled veteran's disability from the Veterans Administration. The disabled veteran's certificate of disability may not be inspected by individuals other than the disabled veteran or appropriate employees of the county or municipality.

A disabled veteran is defined as an individual who (1) is honorably discharged or released under honorable circumstances from active military, naval, or air service as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101 and (2) has been declared by the Veterans Administration to have a permanent service-connected disability of at least 50% that results from blindness or any other disabling cause that is reasonably certain to continue for the life of the veteran and was not caused or incurred by misconduct of the veteran.

A dwelling house is defined as real property that is (1) the legal residence of a disabled veteran and is not occupied by more than two families and (2) includes the lot or curtilage and structures necessary to use the real property as a residence.

Local Fiscal Effect: Based upon the figures provided by FAS o/a September 2020, the local property tax revenues decrease would begin in fiscal 2023 to the extent the property tax credit is granted. The amount of the decrease depends on the number of eligible disabled veterans who receive the property tax credit and the amount of the property tax credit received. Under the September 2020 set of assumptions, local property tax revenues may decrease by approximately \$1.6 million annually beginning in fiscal 2023. The estimate is based on the following:

- 16,381 veterans living in Charles County, Maryland;
- 19.1% of veterans have a service-connected disability rating of 50% or higher;
- 4,747 property owners currently receive a property tax exemption for being a disabled veteran, a surviving spouse, or a disabled active duty service member;
- 900 homes estimated of veterans have a service-connected disability rating of 50% or higher;
- Charles County tax rate is 1.1410 averaging \$3,454.90 average property tax payment;
- 50% property tax exemption credit would be estimated at \$1,727.47 per residence;
- the estimated impact of this tax credit, when *fully executed* by all eligible veterans, would be 1.55M;
- under current law, a disabled veteran must have a 100% service connected disability rating to receive the property tax exemption.

August 9, 2021

Dear Board of Charles County Commissioners,

I'm asking all of you to consider introducing legislation to allow Sunday hunting in Charles County during the Maryland legal hunting season and authorize the Department of Natural Resources to allow a person to hunt on each Sunday of the game bird and game mammal season in Charles County. As of now we have nine (9) Sundays that can be hunted out of twenty-two (22). By allowing this to happen it would open more opportunity for new and old hunters to be able to hunt. Also, it would give our youth more options to hunt. Most kids today have very busy schedules with school, school sports and travel teams. Most are on the field six days a week and only have Sunday to hunt. Most of us work five and six days a week. The farmers in Charles County suffer so much crop damage and loss of revenue. I'm only asking to allow Sunday hunting on private land only. It would be up to the landowner if he or she allows hunting on Sunday. Farmers and landowners pay a lot of taxes in Charles County and should be allowed to hunt their properties and allow others to hunt there land as well.

In the State of Maryland there are many counties that have all Sundays open for Sunday hunting on private property and some public. Again, I'm only asking for private land here in Charles County to be open. St Mary's our neighbor county, Montgomery, Cecil, Kent, Washington zone A and B, Garrett and Allegany. It has come to my attention that PG county will introduce legislation this year for Sunday hunting. So, as you can see many other counties in Maryland allow all Sundays open for hunting and so should Charles County.

Last year when St Mary's introduced their legislation for all Sunday hunting Senator Ellis voted yes. I ask that you all please consider this and put legislation in to allow this to happen.

Thank You.



Robert A Boarman
11500 BB Farm Pl
Newburg MD 20664

Farmer
Landowner

County Commissioners of Charles County

Legislative Proposal

County Compost Program

The creation of a county compost program consisting of food waste from food service industries, restaurants, and grocery stores. Food waste is the number one material in America's landfills, accounting for 24.1 percent of all municipal solid waste (MSW)¹ Mandating that food scraps, expired food items can be collected from businesses as well as private residences utilizing a different color bin in very much the same way recycling is picked up weekly and taken to central county composting site. The county composting site can create compost where private county citizens and farmers can utilize the compost for their crops and gardens very similar to the yard waste mulch program. A county compost program will extend the life of current landfills, preserve precious topsoil for county farmlands and move the county toward a more sustainable environment where waste can be seen more as a resource to use/reuse rather than something to discard.

Matthew W. Perez Jr
4734 Leonardtown Rd.
Waldorf, MD 20601
Phone: 989-316-6009
Email: perezmatthewjr12@gmail.com

¹ [Food Waste in America: Facts and Statistics \(2021 Update\) \(rubicon.com\)](#)

§ 12-508. Agritourism building requirements

“Agricultural building” defined

(a) (1) In this section, “agricultural building” means a structure designed and constructed to house farm implements, hay, grain, poultry, livestock, or other horticultural products.

(2) “Agricultural building” does not include a place of human residence.

Scope of section

(b) This section applies only to:

(1) Allegany County, Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County, Calvert County, Carroll County, Cecil County, Charles County, Dorchester County, Frederick County, Garrett County, Harford County, Howard County, Kent County, Prince George’s County, St. Mary’s County, Somerset County, and Talbot County or

(2) a county where the local legislative body has approved the application of this section to the county.

Application of Standards

(c) The Standards do not apply to the construction, alteration, or modification of an agricultural building for which agritourism is an intended subordinate use.

Building permits

(d) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, an existing agricultural building used for agritourism is not considered a change of occupancy that requires a building permit if the subordinate use of agritourism:

(1) is in accordance with limitations set forth in regulations adopted by the Department;

(2) occupies only levels of the building on which a ground level exit is located; and

(3) does not require more than 50 people to occupy an individual building at any one time.

(e) In Allegany County, Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County, Carroll County, Cecil County, Charles County, Garrett County, Howard County, Kent County, Prince George’s County and St. Mary’s County, an existing agricultural building used for agritourism is not considered a change of occupancy that requires a building permit if:

(1) the subordinate use of agritourism does not require more than 200 people to occupy an individual building at any one time; and

(2) the total width of means of egress meets or exceeds the International Building Code standard that applies to egress components other than stairways in a building without a sprinkler system.

Building requirements

Formatted: Underline

(f) An agricultural building used for agritourism:

(1) shall be structurally sound and in good repair; but

(2) need not comply with:

(i) requirements for bathrooms, sprinkler systems, and elevators set forth in the Standards; or

(ii) any other requirements of the Standards or other building codes as set forth in regulations adopted by the Department.

Regulations

(g) The Department shall adopt regulations to implement this section.

26. A proposal to amend Section 9-310 of the Tax-Property Article of the Maryland Annotated Code, to state:

(l) The governing body of Charles County may grant, by local law, a property tax credit under this section against the county property tax imposed on real property that is owned by full-time volunteer fire & emergency services (current volunteers, those in the retirement system, and surviving spouses of deceased volunteers receiving a benefit.)

The governing body of Charles County may provide, by local law, for:

- (i) the amount and duration of the tax credit under this subsection; and
- (ii) the criteria for qualifying for the tax credit under this subsection.

Proposed by: Commissioner Bowling

A proposal to amend the definition of “agricultural land management practices” found in COMAR 26.17.02.02, to expressly include the acts of clearing and grading land in preparation for agricultural land management practices, in order to ensure the activity is exempt from the Stormwater Water Management Plan requirements, described in COMAR 26.17.02.09.

COMAR 26.17.02.02

This document is current through the 8/13/2021 issue of the Maryland Register

MD - Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) > TITLE 26. DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT > SUBTITLE 17. WATER MANAGEMENT > CHAPTER 02. STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

.02 Definitions.

A. The following definitions describe the meaning of terms used in this chapter and the 2000 Maryland Stormwater Design Manual, Volumes I & II. The definitions will be valid unless the context in which they are used clearly requires a different meaning. Terms not defined below shall have the meanings given to them in the relevant statutes or, if not defined in statutes, the meanings attributed by common use. The definitions for these terms are provided below as a convenience, but persons affected by the Department's regulations should be aware that these definitions are subject to amendment by the General Assembly.

B. In this chapter, the following terms have the meanings indicated.

(1) "Administration" means the Water Management Administration.

(2) "Agricultural land management practices" means those methods and procedures used in the cultivation of land in order to further crop and livestock production and conservation of related soil and water resources, **TO INCLUDE CLEARING AND GRADING OF LAND IN PREPARATION FOR AGRICULTURAL LAND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.**

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"CLEAR" MEANS ANY ACTIVITY WHICH REMOVES THE VEGETATIVE COVER WHILE LEAVING THE ROOT MAT INTACT.

* * * * *

"GRADE" MEANS TO CAUSE THE DISTURBANCE OF THE EARTH. THIS INCLUDES BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO ANY EXCAVATING, FILLING, STOCKPILING OF EARTH MATERIALS, GRUBBING, OR ROOT MAT OR TOP SOIL DISTURBANCE.

End of Document

Commissioner President Collins
2022 Legislative Proposal
Senior Rent Stabilization

A proposal to provide housing relief for seniors in the form of mandated rent stabilization to prevent rental costs for seniors from increasing beyond their ability to pay. Rent stabilization will limit a landlord's ability to increase rent payments for senior tenants. COVID-19 further enhances the need for such legislation in order to prevent seniors from becoming homeless during the pandemic because of their inability to pay increased rent, when their chances of contracting the virus are also increased due to lack of housing. Under this proposal, rent increases shall not exceed the rent stabilization allowance as determined on an annual basis by the County for tenants 62 and older. The rent allowance shall consider the rent component of the Consumer Price Index for the preceding year for the Washington-Metropolitan area.

Commissioner President Collins
MD General Assembly 2022 Session
Legislative Proposal - Blighted Property Tax

A proposal for enabling legislation to establish a classification of real property known as “blighted property” in order to implement a higher property tax rate on that class of properties. This proposal will incentivize timely repair or redevelopment of the blighted properties. Adjacent property values are negatively impacted due to blighted properties. Additionally, blighted and abandoned properties attract rodents, squatters, and other forms of nuisance; they may quickly become a health and safety concern for the community.

The proposal includes mapping the location of the properties subject to the higher tax rate to determine if they are also located in Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC) Equity Emphasis Areas, which are defined as small geographic areas that have significant concentrations of low-income, minority populations, or both. If the properties are in EEAs, we may determine a mechanism to reinvest additional property tax collected back into the affected area. Exemptions to the higher tax rate may apply, to include an active construction permit, or other “hardship” considerations. There will be an appeal process whereby property owners may challenge the property’s status as blighted or claim a hardship exemption.

Commissioner President Collins
MD General Assembly 2022 Session
Legislative Proposal – School Construction Funding

A proposal to develop a collaborative work group in order to analyze the fiscal and operational viability of the Public Private Partnership concept for financing, constructing, maintaining, and operating public school construction as well as the optimum method of implementation, pursuant to § 4-126-Alternative Financing Methods.

The proposal will allow the County to better understand how a P3 may relieve the extensive burden on the County for funding new school construction and renovations. By including representation from the Interagency Commission on School Construction as well as the Maryland Stadium Authority, the County will be well-positioned to examine how to take capitalize on P3s to enhance the efficient and timely delivery of elementary and secondary education infrastructure.

A proposal to ensure posting notifications of newly introduced legislation and enacted legislation is sufficient when the bill is posted to an internet website ordinarily used by the public body to provide information to the public. The proposal will amend Local Government Art. § 9-311(i). In consideration of how the public receives its information, reliance on the internet as opposed to a newspaper will best serve the public interest, and allow us to continue to meet our legal obligation without concern for the increasingly infrequent newspaper circulation in the County. ,

Md. LOCAL GOVERNMENT Code Ann. § 9-311

Statutes current through legislation effective July 1, 2021 of the 2021 Regular Session of the General Assembly. Some statutes may be more current.

MD - Annotated Code of Maryland > LOCAL GOVERNMENT > DIVISION III. COUNTIES > TITLE 9. GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS > SUBTITLE 3. CODE COUNTIES

§ 9-311. Legislative procedure

(a) Introduction of bills. -- A county commissioner of a code county may introduce a bill on any legislative day.

(b) Public hearings on bills. --

(1)

(i) Not later than the next day after the introduction of a bill, the presiding officer of the county commissioners shall schedule a public hearing on the bill.

(ii) A bill may be rejected after its introduction without a hearing by a vote of at least two-thirds of the total membership of the county commissioners.

(2)

(i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, the public hearing on a bill shall be held not less than 7 days after introduction of the bill.

(ii) For an emergency bill, the public hearing shall be held not less than 3 days after introduction of the emergency bill.

(3) The public hearing on a bill:

(i) need not be held on a legislative day; and

(ii) may be adjourned from time to time.

(c) Copy of bill and notice of hearing. --

(1) After the introduction of a bill, a copy of the bill and notice of the date, time, and place of the hearing shall be posted:

(i) as soon as practicable;

(ii) on an official bulletin board in a public place in the building in which the county commissioners usually meet **OR ON AN INTERNET WEBSITE ORDINARILY USED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC;** and

(iii) in a manner that provides the public ready access to the copy of the bill and the notice during regular business hours.

(2) Additional copies of the bill and notice of the hearing shall be made available to the public.

(d) Sponsor; introduction date. -- Each copy of a bill shall contain:

(1) the name of the county commissioner who introduced the bill; and

(2) the date the bill was introduced.

(e) Amendments. --

(1) An amendment proposed to a bill shall be in writing.

(2) A copy of each amendment shall be made available for inspection by the public.

(f) Passage of bills. --

(1) After a public hearing, a bill may be finally passed on a legislative day with or without amendment.

(2)

(i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, if a bill is amended before final passage, the bill may not be passed until it is reprinted as amended.

(ii) If an emergency bill is amended before final passage, the emergency bill need not be reprinted as amended.

(3) Except for an emergency bill, a bill may not be passed less than 7 days after its introduction.

(g) Vote required for passage. --

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, to become a public local law, a bill shall be passed by an affirmative vote of the majority of the total membership of the county commissioners.

(2) An emergency bill shall be passed:

(i) by an affirmative vote of at least four-fifths of the total membership; or

(ii) if the total membership is three members, by an affirmative vote of at least two members.

(h) Journal. --

(1) The county commissioners shall keep a journal that shall be open to public inspection at all reasonable times.

(2) On final passage of a bill, the yea and nay votes shall be recorded in the journal.

(i) Notice of passage of bills. -- Each bill that passes, or a fair summary of it, shall be published:

(1) BY POSTING THE NOTICE ON AN OFFICIAL BULLETIN BOARD IN A PUBLIC PLACE IN THE BUILDING IN WHICH THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS USUALLY MEET OR BY POSTING THE NOTICE ON AN INTERNET WEBSITE ORDINARILY USED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC; AND in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the county;

(2) ; at least three times;

(3) **MAINTAIN PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE NOTICE FOR AT LEAST FOUR SUCCESSIVE WEEKS IMMEDIATELY AFTER PASSAGE OF THE BILL.** at weekly intervals; and

(4) within the 4 week period after passage of the bill.