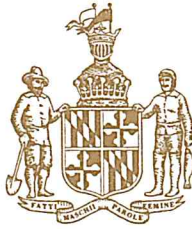


ARTHUR ELLIS
Legislative District 28
Charles County

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
Committee

Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness

Joint Subcommittee on Program
Open Space/Agricultural Land Preservation



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February 20, 2020

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 430: Southern Maryland Code Counties – collective Bargaining

Chair Kelly and Members of the Finance Committee: Thank you for hearing SB430 Southern Maryland Code Counties – Collective Bargaining.

This bill grants Charles County the authority to enact a local law to provide regular County employees, with specified exceptions, collective bargaining rights with binding arbitration. A local collective bargaining law for Charles County must provide definitions of and remedies for unfair labor practices and prohibit strikes or work stoppages by represented regular employees.

SB430 addresses Maryland's current forms of government: Commission; Charter Home Rule; and Code Home Rule. Which means that the **Board of County Commissioners** could enact and repeal public local laws.

Presently **Commission Counties** cannot enact local laws in areas where the General Assembly has not expressly granted authority, while charter and Code Counties have the authority to enact local laws on matters covered under the Express Powers Act. Under the Express Powers Act, Charter and Code counties can provide for a merit system governing the appointment of County officials and employees, whether elected or appointed positions. The law does not expressly grant collective bargaining rights. Charles County operates under the code home rule form of government. The other two counties in Southern Maryland, Calvert and St. Mary's, still operate under the Commission form of government.

SB430 has no immediate effect on Charles County's finances since local legislation is required to enact Collective bargaining for county employees.

Chair Kelly and Committee I ask for a favorable report on SB430 to protect Charles County Employees.


Arthur Ellis

District 28, Charles County