



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 135

Admissions and Amusement Tax – Distribution to Maryland State Arts Council

Thank you for your consideration of HB135. Originally signed into law as Chapter 145 (April 2016), this legislation removes the sunset provision from the 2016 bill and continues the \$1 million allocation for the Maryland State Arts Council from the Preservation Of Cultural Arts (POCA) monies.

This \$1 million distribution has helped to bring continued investment towards MSAC over the past 5 years. As a recipient of grant funding through MSAC we are dependent on this funding assist us in achieving our mission.

With over 110 active members of our community Harbor City Music Company Show Chorus (HCMC) is an affiliate of Sweet Adelines International (SAI). We are an organization formed to perpetuate and enhance the barbershop music art form through education, ultimately benefiting local communities by furthering their artistic enrichment. The mission of HCMC is (1) to provide learning, performance and competition opportunities that enable all members to develop higher music performance skills; (2) to advance the musical art form of barbershop harmony and share our music with the community; and (3) empower women through leadership opportunities and performances and promote a diverse membership base that is united through their love of a cappella music. Our audience varies, from kids to seniors, and they run the range of social economic standing and ethnic postures. Our performances are intended for anyone with the love of music or who simply wants to be entertained with the full gamut of musical styles from country to swing, all in the four-part a cappella.

The financial aspect to provide professional, exciting and heart pounding performances for our community can be a burden. We make several attempts to fundraise but the funding received through MSAC is critical to help this artform survive.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on HB 135 to help support the future of the arts and our wonderful artform. I invite you to come and visit us at our rehearsals or one of our performance, you can find all information on our website <http://harborcitymusiccompany.org/>

Sincerely,

Sueann Myers
Team Coordinator
Harbor City Music Company Show Chorus