



Bill No: HB 877-- Workgroup on Adaptive Reuse of Vacant Commercial Spaces

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Date: 2/16/2021

Position: Support

The Apartment and Office Building Association of Metropolitan Washington (AOBA) represents members that own or manage more than 23 million square feet of commercial office space and 133,000 apartment rental units in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.

House Bill 877 establishes a Workgroup on Adaptive Reuse of Vacant Commercial Spaces. The Workgroup will study the feasibility and limitations of converting vacant or underutilized commercial spaces into residential or mixed-use residential housing. Housing will be for the benefit of people receiving rental assistance as well as mixed-use housing for market rate renters. The Workgroup will also identify sources of State funds available to developers for converting existing spaces to affordable housing.

As housing providers, AOBA members support approaches that seek to create new and innovative ways to increase affordable housing. This Workgroup seems tasked with such an endeavor and the composition of the workgroup is well-rounded for creating balanced proposals.

AOBA would also be happy to work with leadership to identify possible workgroup members from the rental housing industry.

For these reasons AOBA supports a favorable report on HB 877.

For further information contact Erin Bradley, AOBA Vice President of Government Affairs, at 301-261-1460 or er Bradley@ao ba-metro.org.