

LUKE CLIPPINGER
Legislative District 46
Baltimore City

Chair
Judiciary Committee
Rules and Executive
Nominations Committee



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Annapolis Office
The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 101
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3488 · 301-858-3488
800-492-7122 Ext. 3488
Luke.Clippinger@house.state.md.us

District Office
101 N. Haven St.
Suite 202
Baltimore, Maryland 21224

Written Testimony of Delegate Luke H. Clippinger
HB677 - Pride of Baltimore II - Appropriations - Extension
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
March 30, 2023, 1:00 p.m. | Position: SUPPORT

Dear Chair Guzzone and Committee Members:

HB677 is an extension of the legislation the General Assembly passed in 2018. It increases the annual appropriations to the Pride of Baltimore II from the Transportation Trust Fund from \$500,000 to \$600,000. The legislation also requires the recipient of the funds to provide a report on expenditures and a business plan to reduce the state funds needed to support the tall ship.

The Pride of Baltimore has been the goodwill ambassador to the state of Maryland since 1988, sailing around the United States and overseas to promote Maryland's economic development opportunities and educate others about the rich maritime history of Baltimore City. The state of Maryland owned and operated the Pride of Baltimore II until 2008, when the nonprofit organization, Pride of Baltimore II, Inc., acquired the tall ship. Since 2016, the state has supplied funding for the tall ship from the Transportation Trust Fund. However, when the state could not fund the Pride of Baltimore II, the nonprofit was forced to pull from its \$2 million endowment to fund hefty maintenance fees that come with running a tall ship, draining the account.

In 2018, the General Assembly provided a more permanent home in the state budget for the Pride of Baltimore II for five years to cover maintenance and operation fees. This bill would renew the appropriations for another ten years and increase the amount by \$100,000 to account for inflation.

I urge a favorable report on HB677 to continue the legacy of maritime education, economic development, and global representation of the state of Maryland.