

**SB 50 Senator Simonaire\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Kara Contino

Position: FAV

**BRYAN W. SIMONAIRE**  
*Legislative District 31*  
Anne Arundel County

Education, Energy, and the  
Environment Committee

Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and  
Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area



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*The Senate of Maryland*  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Written Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 50**

Chairman and members of the Education, Energy, and Environment Committee, I am here to introduce and voice my support for Senate Bill 50 - *Local Government - Annapolis and Anne Arundel County Conference and Visitors Bureau Designation*.

SB 50 would alter references to the Annapolis and Anne Arundel County Conference and Visitors Bureau to be Visit Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, Inc.

**SB50 - VAAAC\_Favorable.pdf**

Uploaded by: Kristen Pironis

Position: FAV

January 17, 2025

SENATE BILL 50—FAV

Ms. Kristen Pironis  
Executive Director  
Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County  
26 West Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County (VAAAC) endorses and is in support of the proposed Senate Bill 50 (SB50) to officially change and update the name of the organization from “Annapolis and Anne Arundel County Conference and Visitor’s Bureau” to “Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County” in existing legislation.

As a nonprofit, partnership-focused destination marketing and management organization, VAAAC’s mission is to foster a welcoming destination and promote tourism on behalf of our visitors and in support of our community. VAAAC’s efforts are guided by four core priorities: to cultivate and lead a diverse and inclusive hospitality and tourism community; to collaborate with partners across the destination; to drive prosperity and sustainability; and to strengthen organizational capacity.

Founded in 1982 as the Tourism Council of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County (TCAAAC), a non-profit affiliate of the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Annapolis, the County Council passed a resolution recognizing TCAAAC as the official tourism arm of Anne Arundel County. In 1990, the organization was officially incorporated and rebranded to Annapolis & Anne Arundel County Conference and Visitor’s Bureau and more recently, the organization evolved to its present and official name: Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County. The growth and investment in local tourism resulted in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County boasting a \$4.1 billion tourism economy, welcoming more than 6.8 million visitors in 2023 (Source: Tourism Economics). 2025 marks the organization’s 35<sup>th</sup> year as the official tourism office.

With offices located in the heart of Annapolis, VAAAC welcomes more than 85,000 visitors on average each year into the Visitor’s Center at 26 West Street, located just a few steps away from the Maryland State House. In 2025, Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County will open a footprint for tourism at BWI Marshall Airport or promote the destination and region.

We are grateful for your ongoing support of a thriving tourism industry in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County and the entire State of Maryland, and we appreciate the update and clarification provided by the proposed SB50.

Sincerely,



Kristen Pironis  
Executive Director  
Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County

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Uploaded by: Kristen Pironis

Position: FAV

January 17, 2025

The Honorable Brian Feldman, Chair  
Education, Energy & the Environment Committee

Re: Senate Bill 50: Local Government - Annapolis and Anne Arundel County Conference and Visitors Bureau Designation

Position: **Favorable**

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and the Education, Energy & the Environment Committee:

Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County (VAAAC) endorses and is in support of the proposed Senate Bill 50 (SB50) to officially change and update the name of the organization from “Annapolis and Anne Arundel County Conference and Visitor’s Bureau” to “Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County” in existing legislation.

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We are grateful for your ongoing support of a thriving tourism industry in Annapolis and Anne Arundel County and the entire State of Maryland, and we appreciate the update and clarification provided by the proposed SB50.

Sincerely,



Kristen Pironis  
Executive Director  
Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County

# **SB0050 - MTC Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Matt Libber

Position: FAV



**MARYLAND  
TOURISM  
COALITION**

January 17, 2024

Senator Brian Feldman  
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee  
2 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: SB50 - Local Government - Annapolis and Anne Arundel County Conference and Visitors Bureau Designation –  
Favorable Support

Chairman Feldman,

My name is Matt Libber, and I am the Legislative Committee Chair for the Maryland Tourism Coalition (MTC). I am writing to express MTC's favorable support of Senate Bill 50. This bill will make a technical change to existing Maryland law to accurately define the name of the Destinated Marketing Organization (DMO) for Anne Arundel County.

Founded in 1982 as the Tourism Council of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County (TCAAAC), a non-profit affiliate of the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Annapolis, the County Council passed a resolution recognizing TCAAAC as the official tourism arm of Anne Arundel County. In 1990, the organization was rebranded and separately incorporated as the Annapolis & Anne Arundel County Conference and Visitor's Bureau which was again changed to its current and official name, Visit Annapolis and Anne Arundel County in 2016.

Visit Annapolis and Anne Arundel County is an important component of the tourism economy for Anne Arundel County and the State of Maryland. Visit Annapolis and Anne Arundel County contributed to a \$4.1 billion tourism economy, welcoming more than 6.8 million visitors in 2023 (Source: Tourism Economics). 2025 will mark the organization's 35th year as the official tourism office for Anne Arundel County and the City of Annapolis.

This legislation's purpose is to make sure the law, as written, aligns with the official operations of the organization. While no incident has occurred to date due to the discrepancy in the law regarding the name of the organization, we feel it is necessary and prudent to correct the language to prevent any future issue that may arise from it.

We are grateful for the continued support of the legislature for the tourism industry as a whole, and we appreciate your consideration and favorable report for SB50.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Libber  
Legislative Chair  
Maryland Tourism Coalition  
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301-528-1480