

February 4, 2025

House Bill 93 Housing and Community Development - Homeless Shelter Certification Program - Establishment

House Environment & Transportation Committee

Position: FAVORABLE with AMENDMENTS

Anne Arundel County **SUPPORTS WITH AMENDMENTS** House Bill 93 – Housing and Community Development - Homeless Shelter Certification Program - Establishment. This Bill would require the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to operate a homeless shelter certification program and adopt related regulations.

Anne Arundel County recognizes the importance of and supports a standardized certification process for the protection of the rights of shelter residents. As written, the Bill would impact the County's Office of Emergency Management operations, as shelter operations can be set up in incidents that are not large scale or considered "disasters". We respectfully ask the Committee adopt an amendment to read as follows, on Page 2, Lines 25 through 28:

(3) "HOMELESS SHELTER" DOES NOT INCLUDE:

(I) A TEMPORARY SHELTER CREATED TO RESPOND TO A DISASTER OR OTHER LARGE-SCALE, <u>NATURAL OR MANMADE HAZARD OR THREAT</u> <u>REQUIRING TEMPORARY</u> SHELTERING <u>OPERATIONS AS OUTLINED BY</u> <u>THE COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN</u>.

Accordingly, Anne Arundel County respectfully requests a **Favorable with Amendments** report on House Bill 93, incorporating the amendment above.