



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support of HB971
Testimony by Delegate Andrew Pruski
March 25, 2025 – Senate Finance Committee

What the Bill Does:

HB971 Anne Arundel County Crownsville Hospital Memorial Park Advisory Committee establishes the Anne Arundel Crownsville Hospital Memorial Hospital Park Advisory Committee to provide advice on the planning of and to make recommendations regarding the Anne Arundel County Crownsville Hospital Memorial Park. It would codify the Crownsville Advisory Committee into Maryland State Code for a period of 5 years.

Why the Bill is Important:

Important background information: In December 2022, Anne Arundel County acquired the Crownsville Hospital property, formerly known as the “Hospital for the Negro Insane of Maryland”, from the State of Maryland. Following the acquisition, the County renamed the property the Crownsville Hospital Memorial Park and began a master plan process to envision the future of the site as the green and healing heart of Anne Arundel County. At the same time, in recognition of the importance of public participation to this important and historical site, the County created the Crownsville Advisory Committee by Executive Order in September 2023 to act as an advisory body, make recommendations for uses of the Crownsville Hospital Memorial Park, and collect and compile public input on public and prospective uses. The Advisory Committee has been a cornerstone piece of the master plan effort that launched in October 2023. The final master plan was released on February 15, 2025.

Those who are included in Anne Arundel Crownsville Hospital Memorial Hospital Park Advisory Committee are:

- A representative of the Office of the Governor, appointed by the Governor,
- The Executive Director of the Governor’s Office of Community Initiatives or designee.
- The Executive Director of Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture, or designee
- A member of the Senate who represents the district the Crownsville Hospital Memorial Park is located, appointed by the President of the Senate
- 2 members of the House of Delegates who represent the district that Crownsville Hospital Memorial Park is located, appointed by the Speaker of the House

- Member of the Anne Arundel County Council who represents the district that Crownsville Hospital Memorial Park is located
- Representative from Bowie State University
- Anne Arundel County Budget Officer, or designee
- The Director of the Anne Arundel County Office of Equity and Human Rights, or designee
- Seven (7) members appointed by the Anne Arundel County Executive with expertise in cultural history, recreation and parks, infrastructure, health and wellness, communities adjacent to the Crownsville Hospital Memorial Park, and civil rights.

HB971 will protect the vision for Crownsville Hospital Memorial Park and continue the work of the Anne Arundel County Crownsville Hospital Memorial Park Advisory Committee.

For these reasons, I urge a FAVORABLE report on HB971.