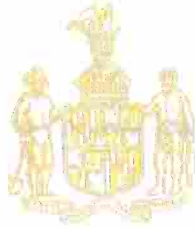


BILL FERGUSON
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE
Legislative District 46
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The Senate of Maryland
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

To: Members of the Senate and the Public
From: President Ferguson *WF*
Re: Updated Policies Regarding Building Access
Date: March 13, 2020

In consultation with public health experts and medical professional, Senate President Bill Ferguson is announcing an updated policy regarding access to the legislative complex and State House.

Effective immediately, only Members, press, and essential employees of the Maryland General Assembly, Department of Legislative Services, and State government are authorized within the legislative complex and State House. The only exception is for individuals with existing appointments. Those individuals will have to be escorted to and from the building's entrance by the members or staff person with whom the individuals are meeting.

The situation continues to evolve and the General Assembly will provide updates as additional steps are necessary.

Most importantly, the work of the Senate and House must go on for the people of Maryland. Our custodial staff, retail and restaurant workers, first responders, and so many other Marylanders are continuing to go to work each day. The General Assembly should be no different, and we must find the balance between public health and preserving our critical services and programs that we rely on in the state for everyday life.

We are committed to passing a balanced budget and advancing key legislative priorities. Communication with public health experts and medical professionals will continue to ensure appropriate steps are taken in the interest of members, staff, and the public.

Out of an abundance of caution, and in consultation with House leadership of both parties, effective close of business Friday, March 13, 2020, the House Office building will only be accessible to legislators, essential staff, press, those with scheduled appointments -- and any announced subcommittees only. No one will be permitted to linger in the hallways of the building.

We continue to **STRONGLY** encourage people to only attend meetings that you **MUST** attend.

Please remember that all committee hearings are live-streamed on our website and hearings are now sponsor-only.

It is important to note that we are not closing but operating under a modified status.