

Chapter 536

(House Bill 469)

AN ACT concerning

**Local Government – Annapolis and Anne Arundel County Conference and
Visitors Bureau Designation**

FOR the purpose of altering references to the Annapolis and Anne Arundel County Conference and Visitors Bureau to be Visit Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, Inc.; and generally relating to the Annapolis and Anne Arundel County Conference and Visitors Bureau.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Local Government
Section 20–603(b)(4), (c)(1), and (e)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2013 Volume and 2024 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Local Government

20–603.

(b) (4) From any revenue generated in the City of Annapolis from the hotel tax, Anne Arundel County shall distribute:

(i) 3% to a special fund to be used only to provide funds to the Annapolis Art in Public Places Commission;

(ii) 3% to a special fund to be used only to provide funds to the Arts Council of Anne Arundel County, Inc.;

(iii) 17% to a special fund to be used only to provide funds to [the Annapolis and Anne Arundel County Conference and Visitors Bureau] **VISIT ANNAPOLIS AND ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, INC.**; and

(iv) 3% to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund established under § 20.30.070 of the Code of the City of Annapolis to be used only for housing assistance payments.

(c) (1) From the county's share of revenue from the hotel tax, Anne Arundel County shall distribute:

(i) 3% to a special fund to be used only to provide funds to the Arts Council of Anne Arundel County, Inc.; and

(ii) 17% to a special fund to be used only to provide funds to [the Annapolis and Anne Arundel County Conference and Visitors Bureau] **VISIT ANNAPOLIS AND ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, INC.**

(e) (1) On or before November 1 each year, the Arts Council of Anne Arundel County, Inc. and [the Annapolis and Anne Arundel County Conference and Visitors Bureau] **VISIT ANNAPOLIS AND ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, INC.** shall report on their use of hotel tax revenue during the preceding fiscal year to:

(i) the Anne Arundel County Executive;

(ii) the Mayor and City Council of the City of Annapolis; and

(iii) in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the House Committee on Ways and Means, and the members of the General Assembly representing Anne Arundel County.

(2) The County Auditor of Anne Arundel County:

(i) may conduct an audit of the financial records of the Arts Council of Anne Arundel County, Inc. or [the Annapolis and Anne Arundel County Conference and Visitors Bureau] **VISIT ANNAPOLIS AND ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, INC.**; and

(ii) shall report any audit findings under item (i) of this paragraph to the governing body of Anne Arundel County.

(3) (i) The City of Annapolis or Anne Arundel County may withhold from appropriation special funds dedicated to the Arts Council of Anne Arundel County under this section if the Council fails to:

1. submit the report required under paragraph (1) of this subsection; or

2. correct any audit findings identified under paragraph (2) of this subsection.

(ii) The City of Annapolis or Anne Arundel County may withhold from appropriation special funds dedicated to [the Annapolis and Anne Arundel County Conference and Visitors Bureau] **VISIT ANNAPOLIS AND ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, INC.** under this section if [the Bureau] **VISIT ANNAPOLIS AND ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, INC.** fails to:

- subsection; or
1. submit the report required under paragraph (1) of this subsection; or
 2. correct any audit findings identified under paragraph (2) of this subsection.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor, May 13, 2025.