



March 9, 2020

The Honorable Dereck Davis
Chair, Economic Matters Committee
House Office Building, Room 231
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chairman Davis:

The Prince George's Chamber of Commerce is one of the largest business organizations in Prince George's County and the Washington Metropolitan Region. The Chamber supports policy and efforts that promote business and community wealth creation which comes from access to public procurement and private opportunity. To meet this objective, the Chamber works with government and corporate entities to create a positive, growth centered business climate.

The Chamber is very pleased to support House Bill 1087 Business Occupations and Professions - Architects - Scope of Licensure. Based on the fiscal note, this bill exempts a person from having to employ a licensed architect for specified alterations or repairs of an existing building located in a municipality if the costs of the alteration or repair do not exceed \$50,000 (instead of \$5,000). Other existing limitations related to the project continue to apply. A conforming change is made to limit the alterations to building permits issued for such projects to less than the new \$50,000 maximum. In short, House Bill 1087 replaces outdated regulations and, hopefully, when enacted will speed up the permitting renovation process for small business. On the surface, House Bill 1087 seems nuanced and technical; but for any municipality or small business attempting to redevelop existing retail shopping areas, this is a big deal for accelerating the permitting process.

Sincerely,

David C. Harrington
President and CEO

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