



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
CHARLES COUNTY DELEGATION

February 21, 2020

Sponsor Testimony for House Bill 384: Illegal Disposal of Bulky Items – Penalties (Charles County Delegation)

Dear Chairman Barve, Vice-Chairman Stein and Members of the Environment & Transportation Committee:

For the record, I am Delegate Edith Patterson, Chair of the Charles County Delegation testifying in support of House Bill 384.

This proposed enabling legislation seeks to authorize Charles County government the authority to adopt an ordinance to prohibit the disposal of a bulky item (discarded furniture, home or industrial appliance, or abandoned vehicle or part of a vehicle not designated for disposal purposes) on a highway or on public or private property. When enacted, the local law would be the appropriate vessel to address any exceptions for personal property removed in the course of a court-ordered eviction. Civil and criminal penalties may not exceed a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for up to 30 days and/or a \$5,000 maximum fine.

Currently, only Prince George's County has the authority to adopt such an ordinance.

There is unanimous favorable consensus offered by the Charles County Board of Commissioners and the Charles County delegation. We are requesting a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edith Patterson".

Delegate Edith J. Patterson
District 28 - Charles County Delegation Chair