



City of Havre de Grace

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January 25, 2021

The Honorable Maggie McIntosh
Chair, Appropriations Committee
Room 121
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: Oppose - HB 73 – State and Local Government and Private Employers – Teleworking

Madam Chair and The Honorable Members of the Appropriations Committee

The City of Havre de Grace opposes House Bill 73. If passed, the legislation would require a municipal government to establish a telework policy and, to the extent practicable, maximize the number of eligible employees participating.

The City of Havre de Grace has a workforce consisting of less than 140 employees, most of whom are in positions that perform essential functions not eligible for telework. City employees eligible for telework may do so currently under the City's telework policy implemented on an as-needed basis at the city administration's approval.

HB 73 does not identify any reason why a municipal government would need a permanent telework policy. While telework is appropriate under certain circumstances, there are many benefits to having staff working together on-site, the most important being the efficient delivery of public services.

While the City of Havre de Grace does not oppose telework, the City does oppose state government mandating how a municipal government operates without providing any justification and believes the decision to utilize a telework policy should remain with a municipality.

The City of Havre de Grace urges the Committee to give HB 73 an unfavorable report.