

SENATOR ARTHUR ELLIS  
SENATE CHAIR

SENATOR MICHAEL A. JACKSON



DELEGATE EDITH J. PATTERSON, ED.D.  
HOUSE CHAIR

DELEGATE DEBRA DAVIS  
DELEGATE ELIZABETH "SUSIE" PROCTOR  
DELEGATE C. T. WILSON

THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401  
CHARLES COUNTY DELEGATION

March 16, 2021

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 1061: Southern Maryland Dwelling Registration and Inspection Fees and Fines**

Good afternoon Chairman Kumar Barve, Vice-Chairman Dana Stein and Members of the Environment & Transportation Committee:

For the record, I'm Delegate Edith Patterson, Chair of the Charles County Delegation, presenting HB 1061 – Southern Maryland Dwelling Registration and Inspection Fees and Fines legislation. This bill seeks to authorize Charles County, the only Code Home Rule Class County in Southern Maryland, to conduct inspections on certain properties and to impose a fine on a property owner who leases a dwelling that is in violation of certain inspection criteria.

Passage of this legislation will aid the county's ability to enforce safe and proper maintenance of rental dwellings. Further, the legislation authorizes the county the ability to require property owners of a dwelling unit located in the county to register with the county in order to offer a lease; charge the property owner a registration fee; conduct inspections of a dwelling unit that is registered with the county to enforce minimum property maintenance standards; and impose a fine on a property owner that leases or is in violation of the inspection criteria established by the county.

Amendments 1 and 2 represent clarification of intent offered by the county.

The Charles County delegation supports this legislation as does the Charles County Board of Commissioners. We ask for a favorable report.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Delegate Edith J. Patterson, Ed.D.  
House Chair, Charles County Delegation  
Legislative District 28, Charles County

