

SHANEKA HENSON
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Anne Arundel County

Appropriations Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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Chairman Kumar P. Barve
Vice Chair Dana Stein
Room 251
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Greetings,

Good afternoon distinguished members of the Environment and Transportation Committee. For the record, I am Shaneka Henson, District 30A Delegate. Chairman Barve and Vice Chairwoman Stein, thank you for the opportunity to present to you HB451 entitled “Real Property - Residential Rental Property Inspection Remote Video Inspection”. I ask that after hearing from our witnesses, that the committee vote favorably on this bill.

Remote Video Inspections (RVI) is an invention of efficiency, innovation, and safety. RVI is a virtual means of inspecting properties that would limit in-person contact to slow the spread of COVID-19 and save time for tenants and inspectors alike. HB451 proposes that local jurisdictions that inspect rental housing adopt regulations for remote video inspections.

The cost to the state of this bill is minimal, if not profitable. Revenue from rental housing inspection fees and fines help support local government. If these fees do not match the cost of RVI implementation, they will exceed the costs of implementation and increase revenue to the city.

RVI is a practical solution to streamlining rental housing inspections to increase local housing quality and inspection safety. MD would not be alone in this modernization; Florida, Ohio, and Arizona have successfully implemented RVI.

It is with these reasons in mind that I ask that the committee provide your favorable vote on HB451.

Thank you,
Delegate Shaneka T. Henson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Henson'.