

JUSTIN READY  
Legislative District 5  
Carroll County

Finance Committee



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 315  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3683 • 301-858-3683  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3683  
Justin.Ready@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 11, 2021  
**Senate Bill 920**

**County Health Officers – Procedures and Oversight**

Chair Kelly, Vice Chair Feldman and Members of the Finance Committee,

SB 920 would require each county board of health under the oversight of the county government to establish clear requirements regarding the manner in which and under what circumstances the health officer or the health officer's staff may perform inspections, issue citations or cease of operations. This bill will also require the county to establish an oversight board and a clear appeal process for the businesses who have been given citations and/or orders to close. Each county would be responsible for creating an oversight board that must include at least one member who is a business owner in that county.

The state of emergency and the executive orders issued in the last year caused areas of confusion and frustration for many businesses who were trying to be safe and follow the rules. By virtue of the current system, orders are often left to interpretation by local Health Departments, which leaves them open to charges of unfair treatment. A set of clear guidelines and the establishment of an oversight committee would give job creators a clearer path to compliance.

I ask for a **favorable** report on **SB920**.