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Legislative District 5  
Carroll County

Ways and Means Committee

Education Subcommittee

Finance Resources Subcommittee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Support House Bill 1083**

**County Health Officers – Procedures and Oversight**

Health and Government Operations Committee

Chair Pendergrass, Vice Chair Penya-Melnyk and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to introduce HB 1083 entitled “County Health Officers – Procedures and Oversight”.

The intent of this bill is to require each county board of health under the oversight of the county government to clearly establish certain 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 issue cease of operations of a business or place of employment in the county. 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. The oversight board may be established by each county but must include at least one member who is a business owner in that county.

The reason for this bill is that under the state of emergency and the executive orders issued there have been areas of confusion, unclear direction and frustration on the part of many businesses who are doing their level best to be safe and to follow the rules. However because of the hodgepodge of these often vague orders left to interpretation there have been many complaints of unfair treatment or targeting of businesses resulting in feelings of mistreatment, and sometimes overly aggressive citations and or threats to close business establishment.

I feel the most important aspect of this legislation is to establish this oversight committee to include at least one member who owns a business in the county so that real world application to these situations will be heard. In addition, any appeal must be heard and responded to in a reasonably fast period of time as many of our business owners are barely making it and trying to hang on to a hopefully better time where they can resume a 100% open status and start to recover from this past year.

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Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. I ask for a **favorable** report on **HB 1083**.

Respectfully,  
Delegate April Rose