



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony for HB1364: Historic St. Mary's City Fort to 400 Commission
Rules and Executive Nominations Committee

Good morning Chair, Vice Chair, and distinguished members of the committee. I am Del. Brian Crosby and it's an honor to present HB1364, entitled Historic St. Mary's City Fort to 400 Commission.

This bill would establish the Historic St. Mary's City Fort to 400 Commission, which would plan and conduct commemorative events for the 400th anniversary of Maryland's founding in 2034. The anniversary will be a tremendous and important event for our entire state, but it will be of particular note for Historic St. Mary's City. As the first colony in Maryland, we will be at the center of these celebrations: this is our Jamestown moment. It is not only a high honor to host these events, but also an economic opportunity for the area. On top of its focus on the statewide celebration, the Fort to 400 Commission will promote economic development around Historic St. Mary's City and our region's tourism economy to ensure continued growth in surrounding areas.

Beginning this work now will give the Commission ample time to ensure that it can meet all of its goals. It will also enable the Commission to integrate exciting developments at Historic St. Mary's City, particularly the discovery of St. Mary's Fort, which is the first known settlement in Maryland where English colonists and Native Americans lived cooperatively. Senator Bailey and I have worked with Speaker Jones and President Ferguson, a number of Governor Hogan's cabinet secretaries, and the outstanding staff of Historic St. Mary's City to put together this Commission. It has the support of the entire St. Mary's County Delegation, and this legislation passed unanimously in the Senate. For these reasons, I request a favorable report from the Committee and I'm happy to take any questions at this time.