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**BILL:** **House Bill 1047** - State Government - Legislative Complex  
Authority, Operation, and Maintenance

**COMMITTEE:** Appropriations

**DATE:** March 8, 2022

**POSITION:** **Letter of Concern**

Upon review of House Bill 1047 State Government - Legislative Complex - Authority, Operation, and Maintenance, the Maryland Department of General Services (DGS) provides these comments for your consideration.

This bill would transfer the authority, operation, and maintenance of State legislative buildings in Annapolis from DGS to the presiding officers of the Maryland General Assembly. The impact of transferring the authority of these facilities' operation and maintenance is significant and needs to be given a thorough and thoughtful consideration. This change will impact the use of taxpayer money and State employees. DGS would lose \$10.6 million in revenues of which an estimated \$4.5 million lost in salaries and \$6.1 million lost in contract funds.

The DGS Facilities Management Division oversees a total of 24 buildings that comprise the Annapolis Complex a portion of which include the State House, Legislative Services, the Miller and James Senate Buildings, and the House of Delegates.

Currently, each legislative building is assigned a regional manager, a building manager, and a maintenance mechanic. In addition, there is a team of administrative staff that supports the operation and maintenance of these buildings from the DGS Annapolis Facilities Management Superintendent's office. All of the buildings in the Annapolis Complex share one budget, and at times will borrow staff from other non-legislative buildings, in cases of absence or emergencies. Separating legislative buildings from the rest of the complex would negatively impact their operations. The invaluable institutional knowledge that DGS Facilities Management has accumulated over the years would not be available to help operate these storied buildings. Furthermore, the intricate interdependence of all of the buildings in the Annapolis complex would make separating them difficult.



It is also important to consider that separating these buildings also impacts other DGS divisions that support the operation and maintenance of the Annapolis Complex. The DGS Maryland Capitol Police and security officers work in eleven (11) buildings in the complex, rotating duty assignments in all of these buildings, along with their other responsibilities and functions. The DGS Design, Construction and Energy division is also involved by managing construction and energy projects. Currently, there are thirty-one (31) projects on the project justification backlog for State legislative buildings with an estimated value over \$9 million. The range of these projects varies, but each one would need to be designed, procured, and constructed when funding becomes available. All future projects and submissions for the legislative buildings would be the responsibility of the presiding officers of the General Assembly.

A thoughtful consideration of the fiduciary responsibility of taxpayer money must be given to the advisability and impact of House Bill 1047. Transferring the authority of facilities operation and maintenance is an imprudent decision; while the General Assembly has experience in a vast number of areas, it is not equipped to oversee and manage the Annapolis Legislative Complex. Facilities management has multiple intricate facets, and without the proper knowledge and experience, much may go askew.

For additional information, contact Ellen Robertson at 410-260-2908.