

Maryland General Assembly Testimony

In Favor of HB409 on behalf of Kimberly Shines Media, LLC “KSM”

Kimberly A. Hines, Registered Agent

I own and operate an online music magazine that was founded in 2007. I incorporated my business in Maryland in 2015 to go after larger digital advertising and marketing contracts and in-person media activation partnerships. After some initial success, business infrastructure issues caused me to lose opportunities. That is when I started struggling financially and fell behind in paying the annual report filing fees. I caught up briefly, but lost ground a year later.

Nonetheless, I attempted to file the annual reports – because no tax was owed on tangible personal property due to the nature of my business -- but was unable to submit the online forms because I did not have the funds to pay the filing fee.

During the pandemic, I learned that my business was in forfeiture. Attempts to apply for grants and loans and partnerships that would help my company obtain funds to make the necessary upgrades to the website in these extenuating economic times were thwarted. Yet and still, I continued to make and remit revenue to the state of Maryland through sales tax collection and payments – from my online merchandise store -- that are equal to or greater than the \$300 filing fee.

I am confident that the letter and intent of the law was not to penalize hard-working Marylanders, but to help us. Instead, we are being penalized by this fee, despite our best efforts in what are extremely difficult times.

I respectfully ask that you vote in favor of amending current legislation to sunset this filing fee. I ask that you send HB409 out of committee and to the entire House– with your support – for a full vote.

Thank you.

*This testimony was quickly drafted to meet the 3 pm deadline. Please forgive any typos or grammatical errors.