

SB1002 Testimony.pdf

Uploaded by: Adelaide Eckardt

Position: FAV

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Testimony for Senate Bill 1002
Charter and Code Home Rule Counties - County Property Leases - Notice Exemptions
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
March 24, 2022

Chairman Pinsky and Honorable Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present Senate Bill 1002 - Charter and Code Home Rule Counties - County Property Leases - Notice Exemptions.

As a request from Dorchester County, Senate Bill 1002 authorizes charter and home rule counties to enter into a lease that is not renewable and has a term of five years or less, without giving notice. Currently, it is required that a notice shall be published for three successive weeks in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the County.

The County has concerns about the current notice publication process, as it is lengthy and costly. In addition, there are concerns about the potential loss of tenants due to the current process. Dorchester County has stated these types of leases will still be placed on an open session agenda for the Council's review and consideration, giving the public the opportunity to provide comment.

Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 1002.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Addie C. Eckardt".

Senator Addie C. Eckardt

MDDC Oppose SB1002.pdf

Uploaded by: Rebecca Snyder

Position: UNF



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To: Education, Health & Environmental Affairs Committee

From: Rebecca Snyder, Executive Director, MDDC Press Association

Date: March 24, 2022

Re: **SB 1002 - OPPOSE**

The Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Press Association represents a diverse membership of newspaper publications, from large metro dailies such as the Washington Post and the Baltimore Sun, to hometown newspapers such as The Frederick News Post and Hagerstown Herald-Mail to publications such as The Daily Record, Baltimore Jewish Times, and online-only publications such as Baltimore Fishbowl, MarylandReporter.com and Baltimore Brew.

The Press Association is concerned about the transparency implications of SB 1002, which would allow all charter and code counties in Maryland to create short-term (five years or less) non-renewable leases without providing notice to the public. Currently, all leases as well as dispositions or grants of county property must be published in the newspaper and include the terms and compensation as well as provide an opportunity for objection.

Short term, non-renewable leases may have a significant effect within the county and its populace. The public has a right to know to whom and how their taxpayer-funded property is being leased. This bill would also take out a statutory requirement to provide an opportunity for public objection or comment.

We urge an unfavorable report.



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