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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
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**Sponsor Testimony on HB 535 – Washington Suburban Transit Commission –
Montgomery County and Prince George’s County Commissioners – Repeal of Term
Limit**

March 31, 2022

Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and Colleagues,

Thank you for the opportunity to present today on my legislation **HB 535**. This is a simple bill that eliminates term limits on the Washington Suburban Transit Commission (WSTC) members that are appointed by the County Executives of Prince Georges and Montgomery County.

Since WSTC members already feed the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) board, by removing the term limits on the WSTC seats, an alternate on the WMATA board who has been serving multiple terms could then serve as the voting member or vice versa.

This recently occurred when a recent member finished his term as the voting member but then could not be reappointed by the Montgomery County Executive to be county’s alternate because of the current term limits in statute.

Since these appointments are ultimately approved by the county councils in both jurisdictions, we believe appropriate checks and balances remain in place. This bill is supported by the Montgomery County Executive and we believe the bill serves the public interest by allowing trusted individuals who have gained experience and expertise over time to be reappointed to the Commission when appropriate.

SB 535 passed the Montgomery and Prince George’s County Delegations unanimously and the House of Delegates 128-1. I respectfully request a favorable report.