

March 9, 2022

**CHARLES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS** 

Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President Bobby Rucci, Vice President Gilbert O. Bowling, III Thomasina O. Coates, M.S. Amanda M. Stewart, M.Ed.

Mark Belton
County Administrator

Bill: HB 1428 Code Counties – Legislative Procedure – Notice

Committee: Environment and Transportation

Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Barve, Vice Chairman Stein, and Members:

It is our sincere pleasure to support passage of HB 1428 Code Counties – Legislative Procedure – Notice.

HB 1428 ensures posting notifications for newly introduced legislation and enacted legislation is sufficient when the bill is posted to an internet website ordinarily used by the public body to provide information to the public. The bill amends Local Government Art.§ 9-311(i), to allow for posting to an internet website used by the governing body to be used rather than a bulletin board in the building where the legislative body convenes meetings. Additionally, the bill allows for posting to an internet website used by the governing body in lieu of running enactment notices upon approval of legislation.

The reality is that the public receives information very differently than when this provision of the Local Government Article was originally enacted. Reliance on the internet as opposed to a newspaper will best serve the public interest, and allow us to continue to meet our legal obligation without concern for the increasingly infrequent newspaper circulation in many counties.

We encourage a favorable committee report on HB 1428. Thank you for the opportunity to provide our full support.

Sincerely,

County Commissioners of Charles County Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President

cc: Charles County Delegation