



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: House Bill 1433 - State Highways – Designations – Piscataway Highway

SPONSOR: Delegates Walker, T. Branch, Turner, and Valderrama

HEARING DATE: March 31, 2022

COMMITTEE: Finance

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 1433 - State Highways – Designations – Piscataway Highway**, that will designate Maryland Route 210 as the Piscataway Highway.

Maryland Route 210, called Indian Head Highway, was termed during a time of insensitivity towards the Native American tribes that lived and continue to be apart of our communities, here in Maryland. As we rethink and reimagine what inclusion looks like across, not only the State, but the Country, correcting the errors of the past is a necessary step in building stronger relationships and ensuring that our naming conventions are respectful of all of our diverse groups in our State.

We understand that members of the Piscataway Conoy Tribe are supportive of renaming Indian Head Highway to Piscataway Highway, and we believe the retitling of this road on lands that were historically used by the Piscataway and surrounding tribes serves as a way to pay tribute and respect to those tribes native to our communities, instead of its current derogatory nomenclature.

This has been a fight by many Native American groups for years to rename this highway, and this is a legislative solution that follows many other bills to rename state roads in Maryland, similar to the renaming of the Nice Bridge in Southern Maryland to the Nice-Middleton Bridge. This change is one that respects and honors these native tribes and is a meaningful step to ensure we are correcting the mistakes of the past.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 1433** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.