



Charles County Government

CHARLES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Mark Belton
County Administrator

February 25, 2022

Bill: HB 1114 Charles County - Blighted Property - Special Property Tax Rate
Committee: Ways and Means
Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Madam Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Washington, and Committee Members:

The County Commissioners of Charles County are in support of HB 1114 Charles County - Blighted Property - Special Property Tax Rate, which will allow the Commissioners to address a serious problem in our community concerning unsightly and unsafe properties.

Blighted properties are those that are unsafe and threaten the health, safety, and general welfare of the community. They may include vacant and/or abandoned properties that present a myriad of problems for the surrounding properties. These properties may consist of prolonged boarded/broken windows, rodent infestation, and become an attractive location of criminal activity.

The intention of the County Commissioners is to establish a regulatory scheme pursuant to local law, once HB 1114 is effective, to include a notification and appeals process for those properties deemed blighted. Currently, it is difficult to adequately hold property owners accountable for the condition of their properties. HB 1114 provides a much-needed tool for the County to gain the attention of property owners who have allowed their properties to fall into disrepair and, ideally, will encourage the appropriate remedial actions.

This bill centers on taking pride in our community, and ensuring it remains a welcoming place for residents and visitors alike. We encourage a favorable committee report on HB 1114.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., consisting of stylized initials and a surname.

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

cc: Charles County Delegation