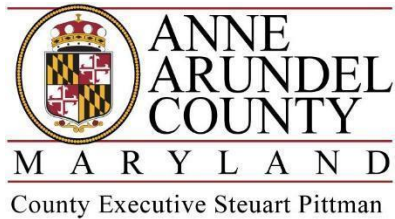


Anne Arundel County _FAV_SB 162.pdf

Uploaded by: Steuart Pittman

Position: FAV



April 4, 2023

Senate Bill 162

**Transportation - Maryland Aviation Commission - Duties,
Composition, and Member Orientation**

House Appropriations Committee

Position: FAVORABLE

Anne Arundel County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 162 – Transportation - Maryland Aviation Commission - Duties, Composition, and Member Orientation. Senate Bill 162 requires the Maryland Aviation Commission to establish policies, based on accepted scientific research on creating and maintaining healthy and livable communities, to best mitigate any negative impacts of the local aviation and airport industries, and requires the Commission to consider information and advice from certain stakeholders in carrying out its duties. It further requires that certain members of the Commission appointed by the Governor are to be recommended by specified Senate delegations, requires commissioners to receive an orientation relating to the Commission’s duties, and expands the Commission’s annual report.

Noise pollution and bombardment is a significant issue for residents in communities along flight paths, which go directly over schools, parks, wildlife areas, shopping centers, and residential areas. Although the Federal Aviation Administration and airports have taken steps to mitigate some noise associated with flight paths, communities in Anne Arundel, Howard, Montgomery, and Baltimore Counties continue to experience adverse impacts. Data from the Maryland Department of Transportation shows that BWI receives over 1,000 complaints each day.

Residents in these communities experience sleep disruption and difficulty enjoying the outdoors. However, a growing body of evidence suggests that airport noise pollution can be much more than just a nuisance, and can actually have serious health implications. According to the journal *Noise & Health*, aircraft noise can disrupt sleep, adversely affect academic performance in children, and increase the risk of cardiovascular disease for people living in the vicinity of airports. Exposure to high levels of air traffic noise has also been associated with high blood pressure and anxiety.

The modifications to the Commission accomplished by this bill will ensure that the Commission has the right people at the table and the right information to make informed decisions to protect the health of our communities and minimize preventable health-related outcomes.

For all of these reasons, I respectfully request a **FAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 162.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steuart Pittman".

Steuart Pittman
County Executive

SB0162 - MAA - MAC - LOI_FINAL_CO.pdf

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: INFO

April 4, 2023

The Honorable Ben Barnes
Chair, House Appropriations Committee
Room 121, House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 162 – Maryland Aviation Commission – Duties, Composition, and Member Orientation

Dear Chair Barnes and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation takes no position on Senate Bill 162 as it passed out of the Senate but offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

The Department would like to note for the Committee that it has been collaborating with the bill sponsor on additional amendments and would be supportive of the mutually agreed upon amendments.

As currently amended, Senate Bill 162 adds four new members to the Commission by providing the Anne Arundel County Senate Delegation and Howard County Senate Delegation with appointment recommendations for the Governor's consideration. The addition of four new members increases the total number of Commissioners to thirteen (including the Transportation Secretary as Chair). The communities surrounding BWI Marshall have indicated their interest for more representation on the Commission. The inclusion of these new members to the Commission will enhance the representation of the local airport communities. MAA supports this portion of the bill.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information when deliberating Senate Bill 162.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ricky D. Smith, Sr.
Executive Director/CEO
Maryland Aviation Administration
410-859-7060

Pilar Helm
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1090