CHARLES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., *President*
Ralph E. Patterson, II, M.A., *Vice President*
Gilbert O. Bowling, III
Thomasina O. Coates, M.S.
Amanda M. Stewart, M.Ed.

Mark Belton
County Administrator

February 27, 2023

Bill: HB 1033 – Code Counties – Legislative Procedure – Notice Requirements
Committee: House – Environment and Transportation
Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Barve, Vice Chairman Stein, and Members:

It is our sincere pleasure to support passage of HB 1033 Code Counties – Legislative Procedure – Notice Requirements.

HB 1033 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, 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the public receives information today very differently than when this provision of the Local Government Article was originally enacted.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. Further, our community members will be better informed and less inconvenienced by having information about legislative matters at their fingertips, as opposed to traveling to our building, or purchasing a newspaper that does not print daily editions.

We encourage a favorable committee report on HB 1033. Thank you for the opportunity to provide our full support.

Sincerely,

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

cc: Charles County Delegation