

TODD B. MORGAN  
Legislative District 29C  
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Environment and Transportation  
Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 1, 2024

The Honorable C. T. Wilson  
Chair, House Economic Matters Committee  
Room 231, House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

HB391 – Corporations and Associations - Protestant Episcopal Church, Diocese of Washington

Chair Wilson:

The purpose of this bill is to amend the Vestry Act so that all Protestant Episcopal churches in Maryland have the same corporate status. The Episcopal Churches of Maryland is made up of the Diocese of Maryland, the Diocese of Easton, and the Diocese of Washington.

Historically, all of the churches were treated the same in COMAR. However, in the 1970's the Diocese of Maryland received corporate status, and in the 1990's the Diocese of Easton did likewise. At that time, the Diocese of Washington could not request the same status because the laws of Maryland and the District of Columbia did not align. Since then, these laws have changed enabling this legislation.

The Diocese of Washington includes churches in St. Mary's, Charles, Prince Georges, and Montgomery Counties. HB391 allows all Episcopal churches in Maryland to have the same corporate status as other denominations. More importantly, it provides banks, grant givers and others more complete information on church status and allows them to operate in a transparent and open manner.

Thank you for your consideration and I respectfully ask for a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Todd B. Morgan".

Todd B. Morgan  
Delegate, Calvert/St. Mary's County (29C)