

JACK BAILEY  
*Legislative District 29*  
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Budget & Taxation Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

*Annapolis Office*  
James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 401  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3673 • 301-858-3673  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3673  
Jack.Bailey@senate.state.md.us

*District Office*  
Dorsey Professional Park  
23680 Three Notch Road, Unit 101  
Hollywood, Maryland 20636  
240-309-4238

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**Senate Bill 429 – Corporations and Associations – Protestant Episcopal Church, Diocese of Washington and Study of Property Held in Trust by the United Methodist Church**

Dear Chairman Wilson and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 429 - Corporations and Associations – Protestant Episcopal Church, Diocese of Washington. This legislation codifies provisions of law relating to the Episcopal Diocese of Washington at the request of the Diocese.

Currently, provisions of law relating to the Diocese and their Maryland parishes exist in uncodified law, as Chapter 96 of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1976. This Chapter was ultimately not codified in our State's Corporations and Associations Article. This creates understandable confusion, particularly as both the Diocese of Maryland and the Diocese of Easton have similar provisions that are codified in this Article. The Diocese of Easton was in a similar position, until legislation in 1999 added their previously uncodified statute to the Article.

The Episcopal Diocese of Washington includes not only St. Mary's County, but also Charles County, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County. This legislation is not intended to substantively change State law relating to the governance of the Diocese of Washington, only to ensure that these provisions are in the correct part of our statute books where they can be more easily found and referenced.

This bill was amended in the Senate to include a study by the State Department of Assessments and Taxation to report to the General Assembly on the impact of repealing the requirement in §5–326 of the Corporations and Associations Article that certain assets owned by any Methodist Church be held by the trustees of the church in trust for the United Methodist Church. SDAT would also study the restrictions in §5–327 of the Corporations and Associations Article on a deed or conveyance executed before June 1, 1953 that does not include a trust clause.

I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 429. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bailey".

Senator Jack Bailey