



February 29, 2024

**Senate Bill 1038**

**Anne Arundel County - Human Relations Commission - Subpoena  
Enforcement**

**Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee**

**Position: FAVORABLE with AMENDMENT**

Anne Arundel County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 1038 – Anne Arundel County - Human Relations Commission - Subpoena Enforcement.

Senate Bill 1038 with its accompanying amendment grants the Anne Arundel County Human Relations Commission the authority to seek enforcement of a subpoena through an application to the Circuit Court to compel compliance with a subpoena issued by the Commission. This is the same authority that the State Human Relations Commission currently possesses.

The Anne Arundel County Human Relations Commission is currently empowered to receive, mediate, and adjudicate complaints of discrimination in housing; and initiate and investigate matters relating to discrimination in housing. However the purpose of the Commission is much greater - under the County Code the Commission's purpose is to "promote and enhance the ability of all Anne Arundel County residents to pursue their lives free of discrimination." Anne Arundel County is currently the only large county in Maryland without a local civil rights law prohibiting various forms of discrimination. The Pittman Administration is working to address this shortcoming with local legislation to prohibit discrimination in employment and public accommodations, similar to the other large jurisdictions in Maryland. Senate Bill 1038 will support this effort by providing the Commission with enforceable subpoena power for investigating complaints of discrimination from Anne Arundel County residents.

Anne Arundel County is committed to being the best place - for all. In order for the Human Relations Commission to best meet its charge of promoting and enhancing the ability of all county residents to pursue their lives free of discrimination, state authorization for the enforcement of subpoenas is required. For all of these reasons, I respectfully request a **FAVORABLE with AMENDMENT** report on Senate Bill 1038.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steuart Pittman".

Steuart Pittman  
County Executive