



Charles County Government

CHARLES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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County Administrator

March 21, 2024

Bill: HOUSE BILL 690 Charles County - Adult Protective Services Review Board -
Membership
Committee: Senate – Judicial Proceedings
Position: FAVORABLE

Dear Chairman Smith, Vice Chairman Waldstreicher, and Members:

On behalf of the County Commissioners for Charles County, this letter is to express support for HB 690 – Charles County - Adult Protective Services Review Board - Membership. HB 690 updates the requirement for one (1) member of the Adult Protective Services Review Board to be a psychiatrist, and instead allows that same member to qualify as a psychiatrist, physician’s assistant or nurse practitioner in the field of psychiatry.

Due to the scarcity of licensed psychiatrists in southern Maryland, it has been very difficult to find a psychiatrist in Charles County willing to serve on the Board. Both St. Mary’s County and Washington County experienced similar challenges with finding a qualified psychiatrist to serve, and ultimately sought an amendment to allow for either a psychiatrist or psychologist to qualify.

It is our hope that by amending the membership criteria, our local Board will be able to attract a knowledgeable professional in the field of psychiatry to assist it in reviewing each guardianship held by our public agency, rather than failing to have a professional in the field of psychiatry represented.

For the reasons stated herein, we encourage a FAVORABLE report on HB 690. Thank you for the opportunity to provide our support.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., consisting of stylized initials and a surname.

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

cc: Charles County Delegation