

JACK BAILEY  
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Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Budget & Taxation Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
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**Senate Bill 429 – Corporations and Associations – Protestant Episcopal Church, Diocese of Washington**

Dear Chairman Smith 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 existing 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.

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