

**DDG\_WrittenTestimony\_SB1038.pdf**

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DAWN D. GILE  
Legislative District 33  
Anne Arundel County

Finance Committee

Chair

Anne Arundel County  
Senate Delegation



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of SB1038 – Anne Arundel County –  
Human Relations Commission – Subpoena Enforcement**

Mister Chair, Mister Vice Chair, and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

For the record, Senator Dawn Gile, District 33

This bill is a local bill sponsored by the Anne Arundel County Senators and requested by County Executive Stuart Pittman. The bill will grant the Human Relations Committee of Anne Arundel County subpoena authority, the same authority already granted to the State Human Relations Commission. The County's Human Relations Commission is currently empowered to receive, mediate, and adjudicate complaints of discrimination in housing; and to initiate and investigate matters related to discrimination in housing. As amended, the bill would allow the Human Relations Commission to seek enforcement of a subpoena at the Circuit Court in the same manner as the State Commission. I am joined at the table today by County Executive Pittman's Director of Government Relations, Ethan Hunt, as well as County Attorney Greg Swain.

Per the Fiscal Note, the bill does not require any additional state or local resources, nor does it have any small business effect. I therefore respectfully request a favorable with amendment report on SB1038.

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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.

Steuart Pittman  
County Executive