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Legislative District 28
Charles County

Ways and Means Committee

Subcommittees

Local Revenues

Chair, Racing and Gaming

Chair, Southern Maryland
House Delegation



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony in Support

HB0151 Charles County Board of Education – Vacancy Procedures –

Timing and Video Streaming and Archiving

January 25, 2024

Good afternoon, Chair Vanessa Atterbeary, Vice-Chair Jheanelle Wilkins, and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee. For the record, I am Delegate Edith Patterson, sponsor of HB0151 – Charles County Board of Education – Vacancy Procedures – Timing and Video Streaming and Archiving.

House Bill 0151 sets the time frame for filling a Charles County Board of Education vacancy and requires the Board to provide greater transparency by live streaming meetings consistent with the Open Meetings Act. This legislation has the support of Dr. Maria Navarro, the Superintendent of the Charles County Schools, the local Board of Education, and the Charles County Delegation. At Dr. Navarro's request, I have amended the initial legislation to extend the time from 60 days to 90 days to allow the Board additional time to fill a vacancy and allow the Board the flexibility to not fill a vacancy should a vacancy occur in an election year for the open seat.

This legislation also directs the Board to provide a link to a live stream through its publicly available website for each public meeting, instead of on its website. It also requires the Board to make a "complete" recording, versus an unedited recording, of each public meeting that is live streamed available to the public online. Currently, there is no time limitation on retention of an archived video. As amended, this legislation would require the Board to retain the complete video for 5-years consistent with the Maryland's Open Meetings Act.

In summary, this legislation simply sets the time frame for filling a board vacancy while allowing the Board of Education to determine how they will fill the seat. It also provides greater transparency for residents and access to meetings of public interest. House Bill 151 mirrors legislation passed by this committee last year on behalf of Baltimore County.

I respectfully urge you to vote favorably for HB0151 with the proposed amendment. Thank you for your consideration.

Delegate Edith J. Patterson