



Worcester County Government

One West Market Street | Room 1103 | Snow Hill MD 21863-1195

(410) 632-1194 | (410) 632-3131 (fax) | admin@co.worcester.md.us | www.co.worcester.md.us

January 22, 2024

Honorable Delegate Vanessa Atterbeary
6 Bladen Street, Room 131
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Atterbeary and Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

The Worcester County Commissioners fully support HB 185 – Eastern Shore Code Counties – Maximum Hotel Rental Tax Rate – Alteration. HB 185 would grant Worcester County the authority to increase the County room tax from five percent to a maximum of six percent. As background, in January 2022 we endorsed a request from the Ocean City Mayor and Council for this legislation, as it would allow the town to cover future tourism-related expenses.

As you know, hotel room tax revenues provide a dedicated source to fund tourism and tourism-related activities, and the return for each dollar invested in tourism marketing generates \$31 in visitor spending, making the authority to increase hotel room tax by up to an additional one percent mutually beneficial to each of our Eastern Shore Code Home Rule Counties, as we promote tourism-related activities that attract residents and visitors alike to live, play, and explore our Eastern Shore communities.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and support of our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anthony W. Bertino, Jr." The signature is fluid and cursive.

Anthony W. Bertino, Jr.
President

CC: Senator Mary Beth Carozza
Delegate Wayne Hartman
Delegate Charles Otto



The County Commissioners of Kent County
Ronald H. Fithian, President | Albert H. Nickerson, Member | John F. Price, Member
Shelley L. Heller, County Administrator | Thomas N. Yeager, County Attorney

November 14, 2023

The Honorable Anthony W. Bertino, Jr.
President, Worcester County Government
One West Market Street – Room 1103
Snow Hill, MD 21863-1195

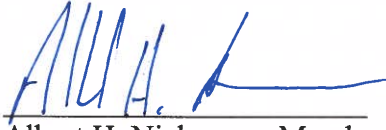
RE: Support for Enabling Legislation to Increase County Room Tax


Dear President Bertino:

We, the County Commissioners of Kent County, Maryland, support Worcester County with the request for enabling legislation to increase county room tax for Eastern Shore Code Home Rule Counties. We appreciate the opportunity to lend our support to our fellow Eastern Shore Counties.

Sincerely,
THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND


Ronald H. Fithian, President


Albert H. Nickerson, Member


John F. Price, Member



Queen Anne's County

THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY

The Liberty Building
107 North Liberty Street
Centreville, MD 21617

e-mail: OACCommissioners&Administrator@gac.org

County Administrator: Todd R. Mohn, PE
Executive Assistant to County Commissioners: Margie A. Houck
County Attorney: Patrick Thompson, Esquire

County Commissioners:

- James J. Moran, At Large
Jack N. Wilson, Jr., District 1
J. Patrick McLaughlin, District 2
Philip L. Dumenil, District 3
Christopher M. Corchiarino, District 4

November 14, 2023

President Anthony W. Bertino, Jr.
Worcester County Commissioners
One West Market Street
Room 1103
Snow Hill, MD 21863-1195

Re: Support for Enabling Legislation to Increase Hotel Room Tax

Dear President Bertino,

The Queen Anne's County Commissioners fully support Worcester County Government's initiative to establish enabling legislation from the Maryland Legislature to grant Eastern Shore Code Home Rule Counties the authority to increase the hotel room tax from five percent up to a maximum of six percent.

This enabling legislation will provide future opportunities for our Eastern Shore Code Home Rule Counties as we continue to promote tourism-related activities for both residents and visitors to our communities.

Sincerely,

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

James J. Moran, President

Jack N. Wilson, Jr.

Philip L. Dumenil

Christopher M. Corchiarino

J. Patrick McLaughlin

- cc Senator Steven S. Hershey, Jr.
Delegate Steven J. Arentz
Delegate Jefferson L. Ghrist
Delegate Jay A. Jacobs



CAROLINE COUNTY
you belong here
CAROLINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OFFICE

JAMES TRAVIS BREEDING, PRESIDENT
LARRY C. PORTER, VICE PRESIDENT
NORMAN FRANKLIN BARTZ, III., COMMISSIONER
109 Market Street, Room 123
Denton, Maryland 21629

January 23, 2024

President Anthony W. Bertino, Jr.
Worcester County Commissioners
Worcester County Government Center
1 West Market Street, Room 1103
Snow Hill, MD 21863

Re: Enabling Legislation for Increasing County Room Tax – Letter of Support

Honorable Mr. Bertino,

The Commissioners of Caroline County are in support of enabling legislation granting the Eastern Shore Code Home Rule Counties the authority to increase the hotel room tax from five percent to the maximum of six percent.

As mentioned in your communications, the Department of Legislative Services requested that each Home Rule County on the Eastern Shore be in support of increasing the hotel room tax to successfully pass this legislation. With this, we hope this letter provides adequate verification of our support.

Sincerely,

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
CAROLINE COUNTY, MARYLAND
J. Travis Breeding, President