

Written Testimony HB1523 Howard County - Room Ren

Uploaded by: Amanda Hof

Position: FAV

March 25, 2025

Maryland Senate
The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair
Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Written Testimony, HB1523 Howard County - Room Rental Tax - Maximum Rate and Distribution Ho. Co. 18-25.

To the Honorable Senator Guzzone and Members of the Committee,

First and foremost, thank you for your work on one of the most challenging budgeting dilemmas in our time. We know your actions and decisions are made with much deliberation, all in the best interest of our State and the people you serve.

On behalf of the Howard County Tourism Council, Inc. Board of Directors, I respectfully request your support of HB1523 Howard County - Room Rental Tax - Maximum Rate and Distribution Ho. Co. 18-25.

Howard County Tourism Council, Inc. is a community organization with members representing all areas of tourism in Howard County. Our mission is to serve Howard County tourism businesses and organizations through effective marketing that showcases all of Howard County to induce tourism spending.

Tourism plays a vital role in Howard County's economic landscape, driving revenue for small businesses, restaurants, entertainment venues, and cultural attractions. By increasing the hotel tax, this bill will provide essential funding to promote our county as a premier destination, attracting more visitors, generating increased spending, and ultimately benefiting our local economy. Investing in tourism marketing has a proven return on investment. Other jurisdictions that have implemented similar measures have experienced growth in hotel occupancy, higher spending at local businesses, and increased tax revenues that support public services. A dedicated funding stream for tourism promotion ensures that Howard County remains competitive with neighboring destinations, safeguarding jobs and economic opportunities for residents.

I urge you and your colleagues to support this bill and help strengthen Howard County's tourism industry.

Respectfully submitted,



Amanda Hof
Executive Director, Howard County Tourism Council, Inc.

18-25 (HB1523) Senate Committee Letter.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Rebecca Doring

Position: FAV

SENATOR CLARENCE K. LAM
SENATE CHAIR

MILLER SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
11 BLADEN STREET, ROOM 420
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SENATOR GUY GUZZONE
SENATOR KATIE FRY HESTER



THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
HOWARD COUNTY DELEGATION

DELEGATE CHAO WU
HOUSE CHAIR

DELEGATE NATALIE ZIEGLER
HOUSE VICE CHAIR

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
6 BLADEN STREET, ROOM 217
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

DELEGATE VANESSA E. ATTERBEARY
DELEGATE JESSICA FELDMARK
DELEGATE PAM LANMAN GUZZONE
DELEGATE TERRI L. HILL
DELEGATE JEN TERRASA
DELEGATE COURTNEY WATSON

March 25, 2025
The Honorable Senator Guy Guzzone
Chair, Budget and Taxation
The Maryland State Senate
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Chair Guzzone,

The Howard County Delegation **voted in favor** of the following bill that will appear before your committee:

HB1513 -- Howard County – Room Rental Tax – Maximum Rate and Distribution

We request a favorable committee report. Please contact the Howard County Delegation office at hoc1@mlis.state.md.us if you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Clarence K. Lam".

Senator Clarence K. Lam, MD, MPH
Senate Chair
Howard County Delegation

Chao Wu, PhD

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Chao Wu".

Delegate Chao Wu, PhD
House Chair
Howard County Delegation

House Vote Sheet HoCo 18-25_HB1523.docx.pdf

Uploaded by: Rebecca Doring

Position: FAV

Howard County Delegation

Voting Record – 2025 Session

Bill Number: LR2717

HoCo Bill Number: Ho.Co. 18-25

Vote Date: 2/26/2025

Final Action: Passed

Motion:

☒ Favorable

☐ Favorable with Amendment

☐ Withdrawn

Name	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Excused
Lam, Clarence, Chair, Sen.				
Wu, Chao, Chair, Del	✓			
Guzzone, Guy, Sen.				
Hester, Katie Fry, Sen.				
Atterbeary, Vanessa, Del.	✓			
Feldmark, Jessica, Del.	✓			
Guzzone, Pam, Del.	✓			
Hill, Terri, Del.	✓			
Terrasa, Jen, Del.		✓		
Watson, Courtney, Del.	✓			
Ziegler, Natalie, Del.	✓			

Committee Reporter Musa Jafri

Senate Vote Sheet HoCo 18-25_HB1523.docx.pdf

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Howard County Delegation

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Committee Reporter Musa Jafri