



Commissioners of Leonardtown

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DANIEL W. BURRIS
Mayor

LASCHELLE E. McKAY
Town Administrator

March 5, 2025

Delegate Todd Morgan and
Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee
Lowe House Office Building, Room 215
6 Bladen Street, Room 215
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Committee Members;

I am writing today to ask for your assistance in opposing House Bill 1525 currently moving through the legislative process. This bill is evidently meant to solve an issue in one specific county and their municipalities in the State; however, the detrimental effect on your only municipality is significant. Attached you will find the Town of Leonardtown's Proposed Land Use map for our State required Municipal Growth Element of our Comprehensive Land Use Plan ten-year update. This draft update was submitted to the Maryland Dept. of Planning in January 2025 and comments are due back to us next week. The Town has been working on this plan in earnest since 2019. We are acutely aware of how easily our Town could revert back to the days of the late 1990's and the early 2000's and fully believe this plan lays the groundwork for continued success of this area.

We are not actively seeking annexations to grow our boundaries but have numerous businesses and developers who are actively seeking projects in the Town. All of the land surrounding the Town has no planned water and sewer unless they are given access to the Leonardtown water and sewer. We believe that just like St. Mary's County, if we are stagnant and have no opportunity to grow in a planned manner, we run the risk of losing our major economic engine, Patuxent River Naval Air Station, as well as no longer being a good community to live and do business in.

In addition to being the County seat of St. Mary's and the only municipality, Leonardtown is part of one of two development districts in St. Mary's. The Leonardtown development district actually extends beyond our borders to the east along Cedar Lane Road. This area happens to also be where the line for Legislative Districts 29A and 29C are drawn. HB 1525 would prohibit the future residential growth of the Town in an area that after over 6 years

COUNCIL: NICK COLVIN HEATHER M. EARHART
CHRISTY HOLLANDER J. MAGUIRE MATTINGLY IV MARY MADAY SLADE

of work has been designated as our future growth area in our draft Comprehensive Plan and is slated for adoption in April. It is as already included in the County development district and has no outside water or sewer available.

There are many reasons this area has been proposed as the future growth area for Leonardtown. One being that it has many major access roads leading to the area and does not rely solely on Route 5. Which as we all know is a state road that needs significant investment and is no longer in the funding cue for many years.

I am happy to provide any additional information regarding this topic as we ask for your support in defeating this detrimental bill as it moves from the House Rules Committee to the Environment and Transportation Committee for a hearing on March 12th at 1:00 pm. As a member of this committee, we want to make sure you have all the information you need in deliberating this bill. It is our understanding that the Maryland Municipal League has also opposed this bill. Thank you for consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Burris', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Daniel Burris
Mayor

Enclosures:

House Bill 1525

Legislative District Map 29A and 29C

Town Boundary and County Development District Map

Town Proposed Future Growth Area and Municipal Boundary Map

HOUSE BILL 1525

L3

EMERGENCY BILL

5lr3557

By: **Delegates Harrison and Toles**

Introduced and read first time: February 20, 2025

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Municipalities – Annexation – Limitations**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a municipality from annexing land that is located in a
4 different legislative district than a legislative district in which the municipality is
5 located; and generally relating to municipal annexation.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article – Local Government
8 Section 4–401
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2013 Volume and 2024 Supplement)

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
12 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

13 **Article – Local Government**

14 4–401.

15 (a) Subject to subsections (b) and (c) of this section, the legislative body of a
16 municipality may enlarge its boundaries by annexation as provided in this subtitle.

17 (b) The power of annexation applies only to land that:

18 (1) is contiguous and adjoining to the existing boundaries of the
19 municipality; and

20 (2) does not create an unincorporated area that is bounded on all sides by:

21 (i) real property presently in the boundaries of the municipality;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (ii) real property proposed to be in the boundaries of the municipality
2 as a result of the proposed annexation; or

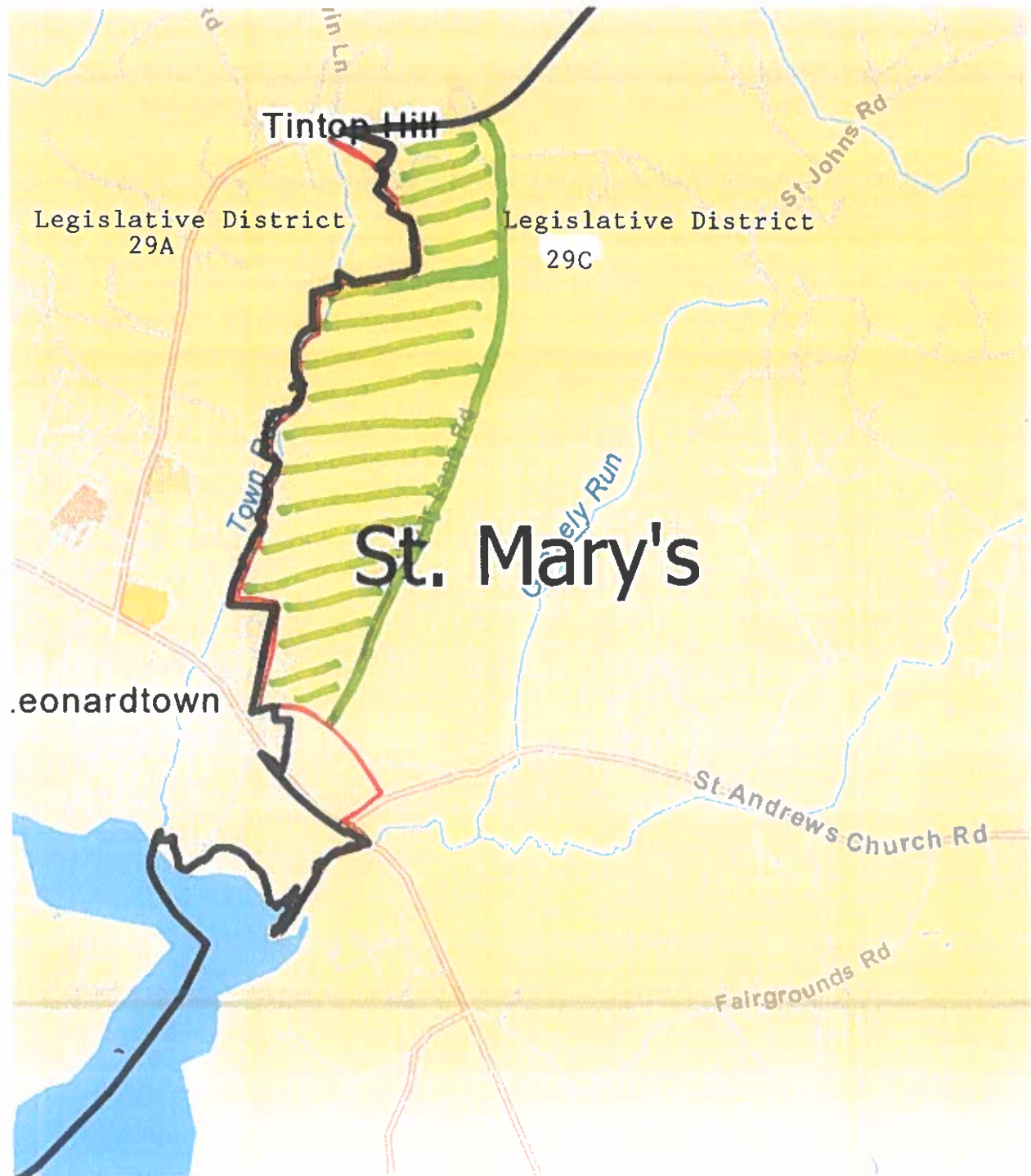
3 (iii) any combination of real property described in item (i) or (ii) of
4 this item.




5 (c) A municipality may not annex land that is:

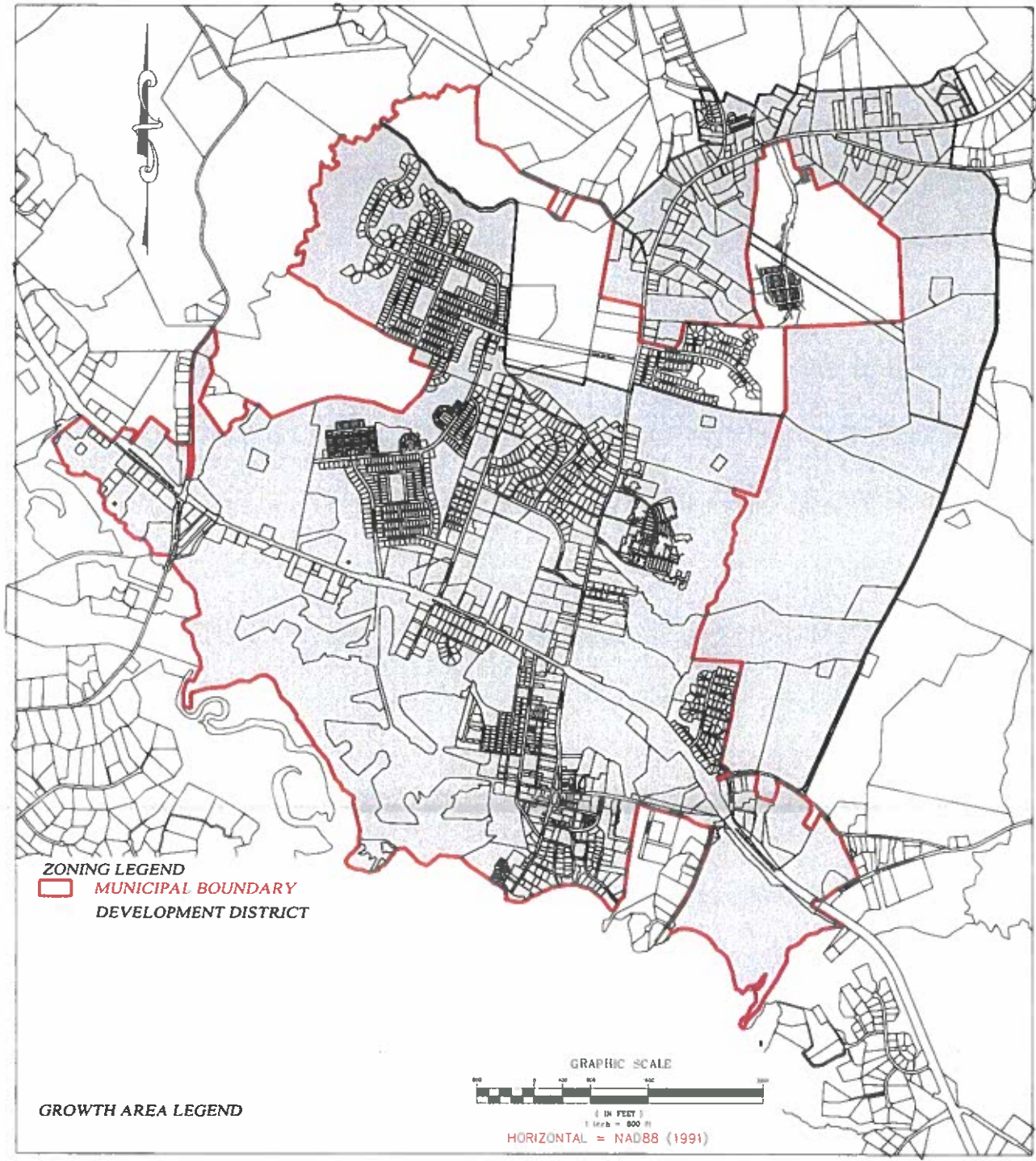
6 **(1) in another municipality; OR**

7 **(2) LOCATED IN A DIFFERENT LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT THAN A**
8 **LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT IN WHICH THE MUNICIPALITY OR ANY PART OF THE**
9 **MUNICIPALITY IS LOCATED.**

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency
11 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, has
12 been passed by a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to
13 each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is
14 enacted.



-  Current Town Boundary
-  Proposed Future Growth Area and County Development District
-  Legislative District Line between 29 A and 29C



ZONING LEGEND
[Red outline symbol] **MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY**
[Light blue shaded area symbol] **DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT**

GROWTH AREA LEGEND



HORIZONTAL = NAD88 (1991)

