

Testimony Against HB1164

Honorable Delegates

Please enter an unfavorable report against HB1164.

I am against prohibiting a county or municipality from enacting or enforcing a local law that is designed to prevent an individual from resting or sleeping in a public space, protecting oneself from the elements in a manner that does not obstruct the use of or access to private property, or sleeping in a legally parked vehicle.

On the surface this bill seems to make sense. The homeless can find shelter and access to private property is not obstructed. However, based on what we've seen in other cities, the homeless manage to take advantage of these more lax laws.

They will pitch tents along the business section, making sure not to block any business entrances, but clogging the sidewalks with their tents so that customers find it difficult to get to the entrances. Some of the homeless will panhandle those coming to shop, which will discourage customers from shopping. Additionally, some will urinate near their tents making the shopping area reek.

By removing local anti vagrancy and anti loitering laws, local police have no real recourse to make those homeless, who are abusing these lax laws, to move elsewhere. There must be a better way than this bill to help those who find themselves temporarily homeless and in need of shelter, but that will not be taken advantage of by those who for whatever reason choose to remain homeless.

So please enter an unfavorable report against HB1164

Alan Lang
45 Marys Mount Road
Harwood, MD 20776
Legislative District 30B
410-336-9745
Alanlang1@verizon.net

March 11, 2025