



City of Havre de Grace

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January 4, 2025

The Honorable Vanessa E. Atterbeary, Chair
Ways and Means Committee
325 Lowe House Office Building
6 Bladen St
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: FAVORABLE - HB 322 Election Law - State Administrator of Elections - Municipal Elections

Chair Atterbeary and the honorable members of the Ways and Means Committee:

The Mayor and City Council of Havre de Grace (“the City”) support HB 322. If passed, the legislation would authorize the State Administrator of Elections to enter into memoranda of understanding with municipalities that allow the State Administrator to collaborate with a municipality to support the administration of the municipality's elections.

Please see the attached Calendar Resolution 2024-28, section 2 A, passed by the City supporting this concept.

The City respectfully requests the committee give HB 322 a favorable report.

CITY COUNCIL
OF
HAVRE DE GRACE, MARYLAND

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-28

Introduced by Council President Ringsaker

A RESOLUTION BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF HAVRE DE GRACE, MARYLAND, PURSUANT TO SECTION 33 AND 34 OF THE CITY CHARTER AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND FOR ESTABLISHING LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES AND POSITIONS FOR THE 2025 SESSION OF THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR DESIGNEE TO SPEAK AND ADVOCATE FOR THE PRIORITIES AND POSITIONS ESTABLISHED

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article III of the Constitution of Maryland, the General Assembly shall meet on the second Wednesday of January each year for ninety consecutive days; and

WHEREAS, during the 2025 regular session of the Maryland General Assembly, the City anticipates the state legislature will introduce legislation that could have an impact on the operations and functions of the city government; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Mayor and City Council of Havre de Grace to actively monitor legislation and take positions to support or oppose certain legislation; and

WHEREAS, before any bill introduced in the Maryland General Assembly is passed, it must receive a public hearing at which time the public has the opportunity to submit a position of favorable, favorable with amendments, unfavorable, or information through written or oral testimony; and

WHEREAS, through ordinance, the Mayor and City Council of Havre de Grace has funded a position (legislative liaison) to serve as a liaison between the Mayor and City Council of Havre de Grace and the Maryland General Assembly and to advise the Mayor and City Council on legislative priorities and positions; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the citizens of Havre de Grace for the Mayor and City Council of Havre de Grace to establish legislative priorities and positions for the 2025 session of the Maryland General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, for the purposes of this resolution, the term legislation is defined as any legislative request (lr), bill, resolution, joint resolution, or bond initiative introduced in the 2025 session of the Maryland General Assembly;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is determined, decided, and resolved by the City Council that following is hereby approved.

Section 1. Proposed Legislation.

The Mayor and City Council of Havre de Grace will seek to have the following legislation introduced during the 2025 session of the Maryland General Assembly:

- A. Legislation authorizing the holder of a manufacturing license to sell wine for on-premises consumption.

Section 2. Favorable Positions.

The Mayor and City Council of Havre de Grace take a favorable position on the following legislation:

- A. Legislation that would allow a county or the state board of elections to assist municipalities with elections.
- B. Legislation that would create economic incentives or stimulus for businesses in the City of Havre de Grace and municipalities generally.
- C. Legislation that would establish grant funding or other funding mechanisms that would benefit the City of Havre de Grace or a non-profit organization located in the City of Havre de Grace.
- D. Legislation establishing an alcoholic beverages license type for for-profit performing art centers in Harford County.
- E. Legislation authorizing the holder of a manufacturing license to sell wine for on-premises consumption.
- F. Legislation that would enable municipalities to create a police accountability board and charging committees.
- G. Legislation that would require the State to be responsible for all the costs and expenses related to the procurement and use of body-worn cameras by municipal law enforcement agencies.
- H. Legislation that would benefit the Havre de Grace STAR Centre.
- I. Legislation that would maintain or increase how capital grants are calculated based on highway user revenues that are required to be appropriated to municipalities.

Section 3. Unfavorable Positions.

The Mayor and City Council of Havre de Grace take an unfavorable position on the following legislation:

- A. Legislation that diminishes a municipal government's authority for any powers granted under the Maryland Constitution or by the State Legislature under the Local Government Article or under the Land Use Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

- B. Legislation that would result in (1) the removal of school resource officers from Harford County Public Schools located in the City of Havre de Grace or (2) prevent the City of Havre de Grace from placing school resource officers inside Harford County Public Schools located inside city boundaries.
- C. Legislation that would shorten the statutory deadlines custodians have to process a request for public information filed under the Maryland Public Information Act (PIA).
- D. Legislation that would shorten the statutory deadline the City has to pay an invoice.
- E. Legislation that would prevent or diminish the City from collecting an admission and amusement tax.
- F. Legislation that would (1) increase the liability of a local government per individual claim under the Local Government Torts Claims Act or per total claim or (2) eliminate or reduce immunity for local government employees, including law enforcement officers.
- G. Legislation limiting or preventing recreational or commercial access to the Susquehanna River, Susquehanna Flats, or Chesapeake Bay.
- H. Legislation that would change the current triennial property assessment cycle.

Section 4. Discretionary Positions.

The Mayor or his designee is hereby authorized to submit positions on the following legislation at the Mayor's discretion:

- A. Legislation that would create an unfunded mandate for the City of Havre de Grace.
- B. Legislation that would affect the Tax Property Article.
- C. Legislation pertaining to labor and employment.
- D. Legislation pertaining to cybersecurity.

Section 5. Legislative Bond Initiatives.

- A. The Mayor is authorized to seek a bond initiative for the STAR Centre during the 2025 session of the Maryland General Assembly and seek funding from other sources from the State of Maryland and Harford County, Maryland; and
- B. The Mayor and City Council of Havre de Grace respectfully request members of the General Assembly from District 34-A submit a bond initiative during the 2025 session of the Maryland General Assembly to provide funds for the Havre de Grace STAR Centre; and
- C. The Maryland City Council of Havre de Grace supports the bond initiative referenced in section B of this section; and


D. The Mayor and City Council of Havre de Grace respectfully request that the Maryland General Assembly approve the bond initiative referenced in section B.

ADOPTED by the City Council of Havre de Grace, Maryland this 21st day of October, 2024.

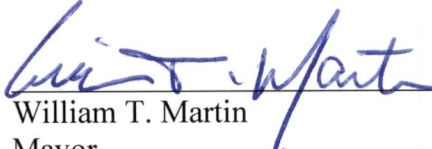
SIGNED by the Mayor and attested by the Director of Administration this 22nd day of October, 2024.

ATTEST:

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
OF HAVRE DE GRACE



Christopher Ricci
Director of Administration



William T. Martin
Mayor

Introduced: 10/21/2024

Passed/Adopted: 10/21/2024

Effective Date: 10/22/2024