



CHARLES COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
**Economic Development Department**

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**WRITTEN TESTIMONY FOR SB 575**

**Economic Development – Maryland Stadium Authority – Charles County Sports and Wellness Center**

**Position:** Support / Favorable

Good afternoon, Chair Guzzone and Members of the Budget & Taxation Committee,

My name is Jim Chandler, I serve as Director of Charles County Economic Development Department. I am here today to request your support of Senate Bill 575, a bill which authorizes \$45 million in funding and directs the Maryland Stadium Authority (MSA) to participate in the planning, financing, and long-term stewardship of the proposed Charles County Sports and Wellness Center — a major community and economic development initiative for Charles County.

- **Strategic Economic Investment:** SB 575 would serve as a civic anchor to the St. Charles Towne Center in Waldorf and support the expansion of retail, lodging, food services, and tourism spending by drawing visitors for regional competitive aquatics events and programming activities not currently hosted in Charles County. Competitive aquatics events of this scale are regularly held in neighboring states.
- **Job Creation & Regional Attraction:** New community infrastructure of this scale would generate both construction-phase jobs and ongoing operations employment, as well as indirect spending in ancillary sectors (hospitality, food and beverage, etc.).
- **State-Local Partnership:** Charles County has recently secured a AAA Bond Rating, has acquired the subject site and has **committed \$53 million to the planning and construction of this new aquatics facility.** Leveraging the MSA's financing and development expertise enhances local capacity to deliver a world-class facility here in the State of Maryland.

SB 575 is a bold economic development investment that aligns State resources with a project of significant local and regional benefit. It lays the groundwork for measurable economic impact — including major capital investment and future economic activity associated with construction, operations, and visitor spending — while maintaining transparent stewardship through Board of Public Works approval and annual reporting.

I urge the Committee to give a favorable report on Senate Bill 575. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Jim Chandler, Director  
Charles County Economic Development



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# Written Testimony Ch Co Sports and Wellness Center

Final Audit Report

2026-02-23

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