



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB0600 – St. Mary's County – Metropolitan Commission  
4-2-2026 Budget and Taxation Committee Hearing  
Testimony by Delegate Morgan**

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice-Chair Rosapepe and Committee Members:

HB 600 was introduced at the request of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County as a local legislative initiative of the St. Mary's County Delegation. The proposed language updates are intended to provide the St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission (MetCom) with additional flexibility while aligning the Code with current practices.

The Bill replaces outdated provisions with language consistent with current Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) insurance limits and the designated service areas in the County's Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan. It also updates the criminal penalties, civil infractions and administrative remedies Sections for enforcing violations of the Code.

Specifically, the Bill:

- **Section 113-2.** Increases the minimum bond amount required for the designated Corporate Treasurer or any Deputy Treasurer appointed by MetCom from \$25,000 to \$250,000, payable to the State, MetCom, and the Commissioners of St. Mary's County in accordance with Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) established insurance limits and to reflect current practice;
- **Section 113-5.** Replaces an outdated local provision to reflect current practice regarding public hearings for facilities and new plans proposed outside the identified service areas of the County's local Comprehensive Water & Sewerage Plan (CWSP) as locally managed and adopted by the Commissioner of St. Mary's County . This change will help the County address problem areas such as failing private well and septic systems;
- **Section 113-21A.** Updates an outdated \$100 enforcement fine provision related to theft, unauthorized and illegal use of public water to align with the existing provisions in Maryland Code regarding civil infraction penalties; and

- **Section 113-21B.** Authorizes MetCom to impose a maximum fine of \$1,000 for a first offense involving unauthorized and illegal removal (“theft” ) of water from the public system under its jurisdiction (which is becoming a problematic) and up to \$2,000 for subsequent offenses.

The St. Mary’s County Delegation unanimously supports this legislation, as do the Commissioners of St. Mary’s County. We respectfully request the Committee’s favorable report on HB 600.