

# **HB 600 MetCom Letter of Support 3-26-2026.pdf**

Uploaded by: George Erichsen

Position: FAV



## St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission

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### HB 600 - St. Mary's County - Metropolitan Commission

#### SUPPORT

March 26, 2026

The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair  
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
3 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: **HB 600 – Letter of Support**  
St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission

Dear Chair Guzzone and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee:

The Metropolitan Commission Board unanimously supports the above referenced House Bill, scheduled for hearing on April 2, 2026. We have presented the text amendments to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County and the St. Mary's County Delegation at a joint public meeting on October 7, 2025, and all are in full support of same.

We greatly appreciate the introduction of this Bill, which is a follow-up to the on-going efforts of our local Boards to help modernize and update our local Code. We believe that this Bill will benefit the citizens of St. Mary's County, improve the readability of Chapter 113, and will provide the Metropolitan Commission with some additional flexibility and opportunity to better serve its customers. In particular, the proposed text amendments will: increase the minimum bond required for the Corporate Treasurer to reflect FDIC recommendations; replace an outdated provision to reflect current practice regarding new plans proposed outside the identified service areas of the County's local Comprehensive Water & Sewerage Plan; and update enforcement provisions to be consistent with MD Code - Public Utilities Article.

In the interim, if you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to working with you on this and other initiatives throughout the remainder of the session.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph M. Gould, Chairman

cc: Senator John Bailey  
Delegate Brian Crosby  
Delegate Todd Morgan  
Delegate Matthew Morgan  
Commissioners of St. Mary's County  
George A. Erichsen, Executive Director, St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission  
R. Christopher Beaver, General Counsel, St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission

# **HB 600 Written Testimony to SBT Committee 03.26.**

Uploaded by: George Erichsen

Position: FAV



## St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission

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March 26, 2026

The Honorable Guy Guzzone, Chair  
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
3 West Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: **Testimony in Support of HB 600**  
St. Mary's County – Metropolitan Commission

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice-Chair Rosapepe and Members of the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee:

We greatly appreciate the introduction of this Bill, which represents the joint efforts of the Southern Maryland Delegation, the Metropolitan Commission and Commissioners of St. Mary's County over the past several years to help modernize and update the local Code.

The proposed revisions will serve three primary purposes: **(1) Section 113-2** increases the outdated minimum bond required (from \$25,000 to \$250,000) for the Corporate Treasurer in accordance with Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) established insurance limits and current practice to protect against individual fraud by the person serving in that role; **(2) Section 113-5** replaces an outdated local provision to reflect current practice regarding public hearings for new facilities and plans proposed outside the identified service areas of the locally managed and adopted Comprehensive Water & Sewerage Plan (CWSP). This change will help MetCom assist the County in addressing problem areas such as failing private well and septic systems. Areas to be served within the approved service areas already require studies, plans and estimates to be processed thru a publicly vetted process. **(3) Section 113-21**. Although MetCom prefers compliance over enforcement, the proposed text amendments are recommended in order to update the outdated \$100 fine provision to be consistent with the \$1,000 provision already codified in Section 113-21.B. and the MD Code - Public Utilities Article. Section 113-21B(3), includes the same \$1,000 provision, but in a graduated tiered structure to help deter and better address repeat violations by the same offender. And finally, Section 113-21B(4), provides an additional enforcement provision to help address multiple violations by the same offender. Specifically, with respect to the theft of public water supply which is becoming somewhat problematic, resulting in millions of gallons of unaccounted for water (UAW) which is not all attributable to leaks and breaks.

Thank you for the opportunity to present written testimony on the above referenced House Bill. In the interim, if you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either myself at 240-298-6106 or Mr. R. Christopher Beaver at 917-806-7314.

Respectfully Submitted,

George A. Erichsen, P.E.

**Executive Director**

cc: Senator John Bailey  
Delegate Brian Crosby  
Delegate Todd Morgan  
Delegate Matthew Morgan  
Commissioners of St. Mary's County  
George A. Erichsen, Executive Director, St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission  
R. Christopher Beaver, General Counsel, St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission

# SenatorBailey\_FAV\_HB600.pdf

Uploaded by: Jack Bailey

Position: FAV

**JACK BAILEY**  
*Legislative District 29*  
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Budget & Taxation Committee



**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

*Annapolis Office*  
James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 401  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3673  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3673  
Jack.Bailey@senate.maryland.gov

*District Office*  
23680 Three Notch Road, Unit 101  
Hollywood, Maryland 20636  
240-309-4238

April 2, 2026

The Honorable Guy Guzzone  
Chair, Budget and Taxation Committee

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.  
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee

**Re: Letter of Support for House Bill 600 - St. Mary's County - Metropolitan Commission**

Dear Chairs Guzzone and Smith:

As the Senator representing St. Mary's County, I am writing to state my support for House Bill 600 - St. Mary's County - Metropolitan Commission.

I respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 600. Thank you for your consideration of this local St. Mary's County bill. Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bailey".

Senator Jack Bailey  
District 29  
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

# **Commissioners of St. Mary's County Support - HB600**

Uploaded by: Randy Guy

Position: FAV

ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
**COMMISSIONERS OF  
ST. MARY'S COUNTY**



James R. Guy, President  
Michael R. Alderson, Jr., Commissioner  
Eric S. Colvin, Commissioner  
Michael L. Hewitt, Commissioner  
Scott R. Ostrow, Commissioner

**HB 600**  
**St. Mary's County - Metropolitan Commission**

**TO:** Chairman Guy Guzzone and Vice-Chair Jim Rosapepe  
**COMMITTEE:** Budget & Taxation  
**POSITION:** Support

Dear Chairman Wells,

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County support **HB 600 – St. Mary's County – Metropolitan Commission**. We believe the updates and revisions to Chapter 113 of the Public Local Laws of St. Mary's County proposed by this legislation will better enable the Metropolitan Commission to serve the people of St. Mary's County by updating outdated provisions of the code, implementing best practices, and aligning statutory language to modern methods.

We urge you to **support HB 600**. Thank you for your consideration as well as your attention to this matter, and thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,  
COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY

James Randy Guy, President

CSMC/AB/tr  
T:/Consent/2026/033

Cc: Senator Jack Bailey  
Delegate Matthew Morgan  
Delegate Brian Crosby  
Commissioner Mike Alderson, Jr.  
Commissioner Eric Colvin  
Commissioner Michael Hewitt  
Commissioner Scott R. Ostrow  
David Weiskopf, County Administrator  
David Yingling, Deputy County Administrator  
Buffy Giddens, County Attorney  
John Sterling Houser, Deputy County Attorney  
George Erichsen, Executive Director, Metropolitan Commission

# **HB600 SMC Metropolitan Commission.pdf**

Uploaded by: Todd Morgan

Position: FAV



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

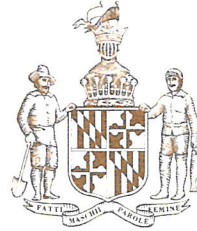
- **Section 113-21B.** Authorizes MetCom to impose a maximum fine of \$1,000 for a first offense involving unauthorized and illegal removal (“theft” ) of water from the public system under its jurisdiction (which is becoming a problematic) and up to \$2,000 for subsequent offenses.

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.

**SMCD HB600 SBT.pdf**

Uploaded by: Todd Morgan

Position: FAV



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401  
ST. MARY'S COUNTY DELEGATION

March 25, 2026

The Honorable Guy Guzzone  
Chair, Senate Budget and Taxation Committee  
3 West Miller Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: HB0600 – St. Mary's County – Metropolitan Commission**

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

The St. Mary's County Delegation unanimously supports HB0600 St. Mary's County – Metropolitan Commission four (4) Yea votes.

HB600 was proposed to the St. Mary's Delegation by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County as a county legislative initiative. The purpose of the bill is to replace outdated provisions with current practice, which is in accordance with Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's (FDIC) established insurance limits and proposed service areas of the County's local Comprehensive Water & Sewerage Plan. Additionally, the bill will also help better deter the theft of public water supply.

We ask for the committee's consideration of this bill and a FAVORABLE report.

Sincerely,

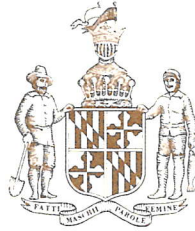
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd B. Morgan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Todd B. Morgan  
Chair, St. Mary's County Delegation

**SMCD LOS HB600 SJPR.pdf**

Uploaded by: Todd Morgan

Position: FAV



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401  
ST. MARY'S COUNTY DELEGATION

March 25, 2026

The Honorable William Smith  
Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
2 East Miller Building  
11 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: HB0600 – St. Mary's County – Metropolitan Commission**

Dear Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher and Committee Members:

The St. Mary's County Delegation unanimously supports HB0600 St. Mary's County – Metropolitan Commission four (4) Yea votes.

HB600 was proposed to the St. Mary's Delegation by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County as a county legislative initiative. The purpose of the bill is to replace outdated provisions with current practice, which is in accordance with Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation's (FDIC) established insurance limits and proposed service areas of the County's local Comprehensive Water & Sewerage Plan. Additionally, the bill will also help better deter the theft of public water supply.

We ask for the committee's consideration of this bill and a FAVORABLE report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd B. Morgan".

Todd B. Morgan  
Chair, St. Mary's County Delegation