



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

Anthony Rosano, Director

LETTER IN SUPPORT OF HB1501

Department of Housing and Community Development - Homeless Shelter Certification

ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE

March 12, 2026

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Economic Matters Committee,

As the Vice Chair of the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) Emergency Managers Affiliate, and the Director of Frederick County Division of Emergency Management, I would like to formally offer my support to HB1501 with sponsor amendments.

HB1501 would require the Department of Housing and Community Development to operate a homeless shelter program. The sponsor amendments would essentially remove emergency management shelters as a designated “homeless shelter,” or apart of the DHCD program and certification process.

In accordance with local, state, and federal regulations, emergency managers must identify and stand-up disaster shelters quickly, with precision, and with the necessary flexibility for emergency response. The very nature of emergency shelters are ad hoc, location dependent, and cannot require pre-certification prior to opening, often only hours after a disaster.

HB1501 aims to create a benchmark, inspections, and training for homeless shelters, very similar to how emergency managers throughout the State must carefully plan for emergency shelters after a disaster. This legislation ensures that regardless of shelter type or impacting event, vulnerable populations are cared for with consistent standards.

Thus, I respectfully ask this Committee to give HB1501 a **FAVORABLE** report.

Sincerely,

Anthony Rosano
Director, Frederick County Division of Emergency Management
Vice President, MACo Emergency Management Affiliate