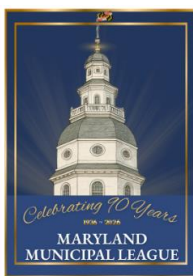


HB 691 CF - FAV - MML.pdf

Uploaded by: Angelica Bailey Thupari

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY

COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment

DATE: March 1, 2026

POSITION: Favorable

BILL: HB 691

The Maryland Municipal League supports House Bill 691. Municipalities across Maryland have consistently demonstrated their commitment to expanding housing opportunities, and this legislation reflects a meaningful step toward aligning State permitting processes with that shared goal.

House Bill 691 appropriately focuses on executive branch agencies responsible for issuing permits related to housing construction and requires the adoption of streamlined, coordinated procedures. By enabling concurrent or predictably sequenced filings, establishing expedited review frameworks, and promoting interagency consistency, the bill addresses delays that often occur at the State level without shifting new mandates or constraints onto local governments.

Importantly, the legislation is enabling in nature. It does not preempt municipal zoning authority, impose new local fiscal obligations, or restrict local planning discretion. Instead, it recognizes that improving housing production requires partnership across levels of government. The bill also allows State agencies, by agreement, to delegate permit review and approval responsibilities to counties or municipalities when appropriate, providing flexibility rather than mandates. The inclusion of the State Housing Ombudsman to help ensure consistency across agencies and report on progress adds transparency and accountability, while stakeholder consultation requirements ensure that the streamlined processes are practical and workable.

In short, House Bill 691 puts structure behind the State's commitment to increasing housing supply and signals that State government is prepared to modernize its own processes as part of the solution. Municipalities stand ready to continue working collaboratively with State partners to advance housing development in a manner that is efficient, predictable, and responsive to community needs.

For these reasons, the Maryland Municipal League respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 691.

For more information relating to this piece of testimony, please contact:

Angelica Bailey Thupari: Director, Advocacy and Public Policy, angelicab@mdmunicipal.org

Municipalities are home to 25% of Maryland's population while occupying less than 5% of the State's land area.

HB0691_State_Government_Procedures_Permitting_Effi

Uploaded by: Cecilia Plante

Position: FAV



TESTIMONY FOR HB0691

State Government - Procedures - Permitting Efficiency for Housing Development Projects

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Lopez

Committee: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB0691 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists, and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members.

The housing problem in Maryland is reaching crisis proportions. Young people can't afford starter homes, townhomes and condos have exorbitant condo and HOA fees. Everything is too expensive and there is not enough housing to go around.

We desperately need to facilitate the construction of new housing or renovation of existing housing. This bill, if enacted, would require the various agencies that must issue permits prior to construction or renovation of housing create procedures that streamline the permitting process. This is a welcome effort that should help get construction moving more quickly.

However, our members want to make sure that any new construction or renovation related to housing is responsible in terms of the state's goals for lowering greenhouse gases and creating self-sufficient communities that promote public transportation. We believe that for these types of projects, there should be streamlined permitting. Projects that rely on fossil fuels and encourage sprawl and put more cars on the road should have a much longer permitting process.

We strongly support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS** report in committee.

HB0691 - Senate_FAV_City of Rockville_State Gov't.

Uploaded by: Christine Krone

Position: FAV



Testimony of the Mayor and Council of Rockville
HB 691 – State Government – Procedures – Permitting Efficiency for Housing
Development Projects
SUPPORT

The Mayor and Council of Rockville are thankful to Chair Feldman and members of the Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee for the opportunity to provide written comments on HB 691. We thank Delegate Lopez for sponsoring this important legislation.

The Mayor and Council stand together with the Gaithersburg Mayor and Council in joint support of HB 691. This legislation requires State agencies responsible for issuing housing construction permits to adopt procedures to streamline permitting processes and supports collaboration with local governments. Further, HB 691 aligns with the Mayor and Council's housing priority to expand the supply of affordable units.

We support this legislation for the following reasons:

- While Rockville already has State Delegated authority for many of the reviews in the development process, including stormwater management and erosion and sediment control, it is likely that other jurisdictions may benefit from additional State delegated authority for land-use and other environmental reviews that may streamline the issuance of housing permits.
- HB 619 allows for concurrent filing and adjudication of multiple permits where feasible and allows for predictable sequencing when concurrency is not possible.
- The bill encourages collaboration by authorizing State agencies to delegate any task related to the review or approval of permits for housing construction within a county or municipality by agreement, which supports and expedites the permitting process.

HB 691 is good public policy that aligns with our shared goal of increasing housing supply, reducing costs, and strengthening partnerships between the State and counties and municipalities. For these reasons, we urge the Committee to provide HB 691 with a favorable report. Thank You.

SENATE Written Testimony HB 691 - Permitting Effic

Uploaded by: Lesley Lopez

Position: FAV



THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 691: State Government - Procedures - Permitting Efficiency
for Housing Development Projects**

Summary: This legislation will align State permitting processes with Maryland's housing production and affordability goals by reducing avoidable delays, increasing administrative flexibility, and ensuring that housing projects are reviewed in a timely and coordinated manner.

Overview: Maryland has declared an affordable housing crisis. Many municipalities across the state have invested energy into zoning reform as a way to modernize and streamline housing development projects. However, zoning reform alone doesn't produce housing. That reform removed land use barriers. But once projects began moving forward, a new bottleneck became clear. Permitting, especially state-level permitting, is slowing or stalling housing production.

When a developer submits a project, they must secure local permits (city or county) and multiple state permits from agencies such as the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA), and Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT). Each of these agencies has its own review process, timelines, and internal priorities.

Many permits must be reviewed one after the other, rather than at the same time. This creates long cumulative delays, idle time between approvals, increased carrying costs for developers, and higher housing prices passed to buyers/renters.

HB 691 requires processes to allow for concurrent filing and review wherever feasible to shorten total project timelines to get more housing available,

Currently, many state permits are reviewed strictly in order received. That creates a problem because housing projects addressing affordability, transit-oriented development, and projects aligned with state housing goals, are not distinguished from lower-priority projects. There is no formal mechanism to fast-track affordable housing, prioritize projects meeting state housing targets, or align permitting timelines with state policy goals. This disconnect undermines the state's broader housing strategy.

Currently, MDE has statutory authority to delegate some stormwater-related permitting tasks to third parties (like counties or municipalities). SHA and MDOT do not appear to have similar statutory delegation authority. Local governments are many times better suited to handle

LESLEY J. LOPEZ
Legislative District 39
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Health and Government
Operations Committee



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

permitting because they often have staff capacity, are closer to projects, and already review related site plans. They cannot, however, legally take on certain state review functions, even if both sides agree. This creates redundant review, administrative duplication, and avoidable state-level bottlenecks.

HB 691 seeks to provide solutions to these issues by allowing mutual-agreement delegation authority for agencies like SHA and MDOT.

Conclusion: Maryland has reformed zoning in places like Gaithersburg, but state-level permitting inefficiencies now act as the primary barrier to housing production. The changes outlined in HB 691 will increase the speed and predictability of the permitting process, reduce unnecessary duplication across agencies, and better align state operations with Maryland's housing and affordability goals. By allowing concurrent reviews where appropriate and enabling mutually agreed delegation of certain permitting functions, the bill will help ensure that projects are not stalled by procedural bottlenecks after they have already met zoning and local land use requirements. Ultimately, HB 691 supports a more coordinated, efficient, and responsive permitting system that will help bring needed housing to market more quickly and at lower cost.

HB0691 crossover bill - FAV - Permitting Efficiency

Uploaded by: Richard KAP Kaplowitz

Position: FAV

HB0691 Crossover Bill Richard

Kaplowitz_FAV 03/31/2026

Richard Keith Kaplowitz

Frederick, MD 21703

TESTIMONY ON CROSSOVER BILL HB#0691- POSITION:
FAVORABLE

State Government - Procedures - Permitting Efficiency for Housing Development Projects

TO: Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3, Frederick County. I am submitting this testimony in support of crossover bill HB#0691, **State Government - Procedures - Permitting Efficiency for Housing Development Projects**

The National Housing Conference has recognized the importance of the actions this bill will undertake in Maryland. *Expedited permitting and review policies encourage affordable development:*¹

Complicated and lengthy approval processes extend development time, tying up developers' capital and resulting in a mounting price tag for project-related **soft costs**, such as architect and legal fees, insurance payments and property taxes incurred during the development period. The fees associated with obtaining development approvals and building permits further increased costs, driving up the price of the finished product and making affordable homes more difficult to deliver.

Expedited permitting and review policies help increase the supply of homes and apartments that are affordable to families by expediting and simplifying the permitting and review processes applicable to all homes and apartments. By reducing development costs and allowing the market to work more efficiently, these steps help to make all homes and apartments more affordable.

This bill will accomplish this purpose through requiring each unit in the Executive Branch of State government responsible for issuing a permit related to housing construction to adopt procedures to streamline certain permitting processes for housing projects; requiring the State Housing Ombudsman, to the extent feasible, to ensure consistency between certain permitting processes developed by different units; and authorizing the delegation of certain tasks related to the review or approval of permits related to housing construction to certain local governmental units.

I respectfully urge this committee to return a favorable report on crossover bill HB#0691.

¹ <https://nhc.org/policy-guide/expedited-permitting-and-review-the-basics/expedited-permitting-and-review-policies-encourage-affordable-development/>

HB691_EEE_Testimony_COG_FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Therese Hessler

Position: FAV



March 31, 2026

Senate Education, Energy, & Environment Committee

Bill: House Bill 691 - State Government - Procedures - Permitting Efficiency for Housing Development Projects

Position: Favorable

Dear Chair Feldman, Vice Chair Kagan, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the City of Gaithersburg, we respectfully express our support for House Bill 691, *State Government – Procedures – Permitting Efficiency for Housing Development Projects*.

The City of Gaithersburg is committed to expanding housing opportunities, supporting balanced and sustainable growth, and ensuring that development occurs in a manner consistent with community priorities and infrastructure capacity. Predictable and efficient state permitting processes are critical to helping municipalities like Gaithersburg advance housing initiatives in a timely and cost-effective manner. Improved coordination across state agencies and modernization of permitting procedures, as proposed in HB 691, will support local governments in meeting housing needs while maintaining appropriate environmental and public oversight.

In addition, timely and coordinated permitting processes are particularly important for local governments working to align housing development with transportation investments, public facilities planning, and infrastructure capacity. Delays or inconsistencies at the state level can create uncertainty that ultimately slows projects and increases costs for both municipalities and residents. Enhancing coordination and transparency in permitting will help ensure that local housing priorities can move forward in a predictable and responsible manner.

For these reasons, the City of Gaithersburg respectfully urges a favorable report on HB 691.

Respectfully submitted,

Jud Ashman, Mayor
City of Gaithersburg

City of Gaithersburg • 31 South Summit Avenue, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877-2038
301-258-6300 • FAX 301-948-6149 • cityhall@gaithersburgmd.gov • gaithersburgmd.gov

MAYOR
Jud Ashman

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Neil Harris
Lisa Henderson
Yamil Hernández
Jim McNulty
Robert Wu

CITY MANAGER
Tanisha R. Briley

MBIA Letter of Support HB 691.pdf

Uploaded by: Lori Graf

Position: FWA

March 31, 2026

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

**RE: MBIA Letter of Support with Amendment HB 691 State Government - Procedures -
Permitting Efficiency for Housing Development Projects**

Dear Chair Feldman,

The Maryland Building Industry Association, representing 100,000 employees of the building industry across the State of Maryland, appreciates the opportunity to participate in the discussion surrounding **HB 691 State Government - Procedures - Permitting Efficiency for Housing Development Projects**.

MBIA strongly supports HB 691's goal of improving permitting efficiency for housing development projects, which is essential to addressing Maryland's housing supply and affordability challenges. Streamlining state permitting processes, encouraging concurrent reviews, and creating predictable timelines are critical reforms that will reduce unnecessary delays and costs without weakening substantive standards. We appreciate the bill's recognition that process efficiency is the objective, and that housing production depends on timely, predictable, coordinated government action.

We would like to point out that state delegating reviews to localities could be problematic, especially for environmental reviews like wetland permitting. This is based on experience with local implementation of state bills for forest conservation, stormwater management and erosion and sediment control. MBIA urges caution when considering delegation of environmental permitting and review functions, particularly those overseen by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). Experience shows that when environmental reviews are delegated to counties and municipalities, the result is often more restrictive regulation than required by the State.

Below are examples of local regulations becoming more restrictive than the State:

- **Forest Conservation Act**
 - Local implementation routinely treats forests in isolation, with siloed reviews that treat forest as the most important land use consideration on a project regardless of context, resulting in requirements more restrictive than state law. A recent example is Prince George's County's implementation of the recent changes to Maryland State Forest Conservation Act. The state law allows local jurisdictions to tailor their local ordinances to accommodate growth so long as the net result is no net loss of forest. Prince George's

County Parks and Planning defaulted to the most conservative interpretation of state regulations

which differs from Montgomery County's Planning Department that took a more measured approach to their version of the state regulations.

- Is used as a proxy by project opponents to delay projects- especially as it relates to specimen tree variances which can be challenged in court- and although rarely successful can delay a project by months. Also, the size of what constitutes a specimen tree varies by county and municipality.
- **Stormwater Management Regulations**
 - During the last state SWM Update, portions of the regulations were inherently subjective and localities were left to interpret the state's intention. This resulted in the same regulations being applied in very different manner across the state despite MDE being responsible for the oversight of implementation at the local levels. One example, Montgomery County (and several others) adopted modified criteria for redevelopment projects that significantly exceed what MDE suggested. In many instances, these heightened requirements were not possible to meet and resulted in a need to grant waivers for SWM regulations for nearly all redevelopment projects. This created the perception that the County is granting leniency but in reality, the requirements were nearly impossible to comply with. Projects like the Marriott Headquarters or Pike & Rose, both located in or near Bethesda, would not have been possible without a waiver despite both projects exceeding the state suggested redevelopment criteria.
- **Sediment Control Regulations**
 - Prior State regulations were overly restrictive when they required Grading Units be restricted to 20 acres. After some time, the State recalled this requirement, but several localities had already passed their local version based on the regulations and chose not to revisit their local ordinances. This resulted in local jurisdictions continuing to enforce regulations that MDE had decided were too onerous.
- **Wetlands and Streams**
 - Streams and Wetlands are already regulated at the federal and state level with different definitions of, buffering requirements, and mitigation requirements for streams, wetlands and floodplains. While permit applications are submitted to both agencies through a Joint Permit Application permits still require two separate approvals, one from the Army Corps of Engineers and one from MDE. This is an example of MDE implementing federal requirements more stringently just as counties and municipalities do for the examples above and by adding their own definitions, requirements, and buffers to these already regulated water resources resulting in three levels of government that need to be satisfied to obtain approvals.
 - Examples that local governments frequently add include:
 - Redundant stream and wetlands regulations like in the Ten Mile Creek Master Plan in Montgomery County.

- Additional buffers and setbacks with a variety of names such as stream buffers (Montgomery, Gaithersburg, Prince George's), waterbody buffers (Frederick), RPZs (Charles), PMAs (Prince George's), and similar constructs
- These layers compound regulation with diminishing environmental benefits as they expand and can significantly constrain developable land and complicate reviews

We would like to suggest the following changes to improve the bill as written:

- Clarify that delegation authority should be:
 - Discretionary and targeted, not automatic
 - Used primarily to address capacity or responsiveness issues
- Explicitly limit or condition delegation of environmental permitting responsibilities, particularly where:
 - State or federal standards already apply
 - Uniformity and predictability are essential
- Ensure that any delegated authority:
 - Requires clear guidance from the State on intent with model ordinances
 - Prohibits local requirements that exceed state standards unless expressly authorized by law
- Require localities to identify redundancies and duplicative regulations at the federal, state, and local level
 - Require localities to provide justification when regulations that are more restrictive than the state limit housing supply.
 - Eliminate local laws that are not possible to achieve such as the case with stormwater waivers for redevelopment in Montgomery County.

For these reasons, MBIA respectfully requests the Committee give this measure a favorable report. Thank you for your consideration.

For more information about this position, please contact Lori Graf at 410-800-7327 or lgraf@marylandbuilders.org.

cc: Members of the Senate Education, Energy and Environment

HB0691-EEE_MACo_LOI.pdf

Uploaded by: Dominic Butchko

Position: INFO



House Bill 691

State Government - Procedures - Permitting Efficiency for Housing Development Projects

MACo Position: **LETTER OF
INFORMATION**

To: Education, Energy, and the Environment
Committee

Date: March 31, 2026

From: Dominic J. Butchko

MACo respectfully submits this **Letter of Information** on HB 691. The bill directs state departments to review and analyze housing-related permitting processes and to implement streamlining measures intended to speed up reviews. As part of that effort, HB 691 also authorizes the State to enter into delegation agreements with counties, under which a county could review and approve certain State permits related to housing production.

For the past three years, Maryland's counties and the General Assembly have shared a clear priority: expanding the supply of affordable housing. That commitment is reflected in major recent actions, including the Housing Expansion and Affordability Act of 2024 (HB 538/SB 484) and legislation authorizing Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) statewide in 2025 (HB 1466/SB 891). MACo played a pivotal role in advancing these—and many other—housing measures during this period. That work culminated in MACo's 2026 legislative initiative bill, the Building Affordably in My Back Yard (BAMBY) Act, a county-backed comprehensive and pragmatic path forward to meet the current moment. Counties welcome tools to help advance housing at all levels, where it fits within their infrastructure capacity.

A central focus for the Administration, local governments, and the public has been evaluating how the current system functions and identifying where government processes can be improved. The Administration's Fall 2025 executive order called for broad streamlining across State government. MACo's BAMBY proposal similarly emphasizes the need to address specific State-level bottlenecks, improve predictability, and create pathways for regulatory certainty, including options for counties to adopt faster administrative review processes. HB 691 aligns with this broader objective of improving permitting performance and transparency.

As legislators consider the delegation concept within HB 691, counties offer a note of caution. Local governments are already under significant operational strain in meeting existing State mandates and service demands. While county-led review may, in some contexts, be conducted efficiently, many county departments are approaching the practical limits of additional workload absorption without corresponding resources. If delegation agreements prove effective, they should be structured with clear parameters, sustainable funding, and accountability to ensure they do not function as a cost-shift from the State to local governments.

Overall, MACo appreciates HB 691's direction toward clearer, more transparent processes for housing approvals. While counties will continue to evaluate implementation considerations, the bill represents constructive progress toward the shared state and local goal of increasing housing supply and affordability.

X_HB0691_DHCD_OPPOSE.pdf

Uploaded by: Jake Day

Position: INFO



WES MOORE
Governor
ARUNA MILLER
Lt. Governor
JACOB R. DAY
Secretary
JULIA GLANZ
Deputy Secretary

DATE: March 31, 2026
BILL NO.: House Bill 691
TITLE: State Government – Procedures – Permitting Efficiency for Housing Development Projects
COMMITTEE: Senate Education, Energy, & the Environment Committee

Letter of Opposition

Description of Bill:

House Bill 691 requires each unit in the executive branch that is responsible for issuing a permit related to housing construction to adopt procedures to streamline the permitting process. A streamlined permitting process allows for concurrent filing and adjudication of multiple approvals for one project, predictable sequencing of filings and adjudications, and a framework allowing for expedited review of permits (including clear escalation and prioritization pathways). The State Housing Ombudsman would be required, to the extent feasible, to ensure consistency between the streamlined permitting processes of the various agencies, and to report on the development and implementation of the streamlined processes.

Background and Analysis:

On September 3, 2025, Governor Moore signed the Housing Starts Here executive order, which aims to address Maryland's affordable housing crisis by accelerating housing production across the state. With regard to permitting, the order requires each principal department of the Executive Branch that issues permits related to housing construction to: (1) designate a senior point of contact for coordination of permit processing; (2) submit to the Office of the Governor and the Maryland Coordinated Permitting Review Council updated permit application processing procedures; (3) create and implement standards and procedures for applicants for State-issued permits related to housing development to hire third-party reviewers to help expedite the process; (4) assess additional potential legislative, regulatory, and administrative actions to increase permitting efficiency; (5) engage in simultaneous, rather than sequential, review of permit applications, to the extent allowed by law; (6) provide recommendations of ways to increase predictability and transparency related to applications for housing-related permits; and (7) fully digitize permit applications and fee payments within the extent of budgetary authority. Finally, the order required DHCD to designate a State Housing Ombudsman, whose duties include coordinating and reporting on the activities undertaken by the executive departments and State agencies to streamline the permitting process.

House Bill 691 and the Housing Starts Here executive order share the laudable goal of streamlining the permitting process for housing development projects across executive agencies. As initiated by the executive order, the relevant agencies have reviewed their permit processes and are actively in the process of streamlining them. Both House Bill 691 and the Housing Starts Here executive order apply to executive branch agencies, direct those agencies to streamline permitting procedures, and specifically encourage concurrent permitting when possible. Both also require the State Housing Ombudsman to coordinate and report on the progress of permit streamlining. The executive order further directs agencies to digitize permit applications and payment fees and to allow for third-party permit reviewers. The policies being proposed in this bill are already being implemented through Executive Order, making the legislation duplicative.

DHCD Position

Maryland DHCD respectfully requests an unfavorable report on HB 691.



HB0691 - LOI - SHA - State Government - Procedures

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: INFO

March 31, 2026

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment
230 Taylor House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Letter of Information – House Bill 691 – State Government – Procedures – Permitting Efficiency for Housing Development Projects

Dear Chair Feldman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation takes no position on House Bill 691 and offers the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

HB 691 requires each unit in the Executive Branch of state government that issues permits related to housing construction to adopt streamlining procedures for the project permitting process.

The State Highway Administration (SHA) is responsible under Maryland law and the Maryland Code of Regulations to protect public safety and roadway infrastructure investments by requiring access permits for entrances to roadways, requiring improvements, and imposing conditions to mitigate adverse impacts to roadway safety and function. This includes access management and permitting for residential developments along state highways.

In September 2025, Governor Moore signed Executive Order (EO) 01.01.2025.19 (*Addressing Maryland’s Affordable Housing Crisis*) to address Maryland’s 96,000-unit housing shortage. The order directed state agencies to accelerate residential development by streamlining permitting processes.

The SHA is in compliance with Governor Moore’s EO and established a working group to coordinate closely with housing development industry representatives and local and state partners to advance improvements to access management and the permitting process. As part of the work group, SHA developed and is currently piloting an optional third party expedited review process to streamline the review and approval of access permits for residential developments by providing dedicated resources. The streamlined process would enable developers to pay for the expedited review of their permit applications, traffic impact study, plan review, and issuance of the approved permit. These new SHA processes mimic third party expedited reviewer processes used in other Maryland counties for building permits. The process is currently being piloted in Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties and is anticipated to be available for all residential developments in Spring 2026.

The SHA has also updated its Access Management and Access Permit website to clarify review timelines, provide links to process flow charts, and provide single points of contact for each district. Our dashboard tools monitor timelines for each review stage. SHA is also updating Hydrologic and Hydraulic (H&H) guidelines (published in August 2025), our Traffic Impact Study Guidelines, and

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Page Two

incorporating Complete Streets policy practices into the Access Manual to standardize requirements and provide greater predictability to designers/developers.

The SHA remains committed to eliminating redundancies and supports Governor Moore's vision for a more competitive and affordable Maryland through active administrative reforms. Most of the bill's requirements are already being implemented under the Governor's Executive Order. House Bill 691 does not address the resource and system issues identified by the work group. Absent the process enhancements where a developer can opt in to pay for the additional resources, SHA does not anticipate that substantial additional streamlining is feasible beyond the areas already addressed by the work group.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests that the Committee consider this information during its deliberations of House Bill 691.

Respectfully submitted,

April Moeller
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland State Highway Administration
410-210-5780

Matthew Mickler
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1090