

**HB 994 - Business Regulation - Travel Services - Special Fund, Fees, and Surety Requirement  
(Don't You Worry (Wurie) Act)**  
Senate Finance3 Committee  
April 1, 2026  
**Position: OPPOSE (unless amended)**

*MHLA is the sole statewide organization dedicated to advocacy on behalf of Maryland's lodging industry. Our industry is a powerful economic engine - **765 hotels** support more than **115,000 jobs** statewide, generate **\$7.2 billion in wages and salaries**, contribute **\$2.4 billion in state and local tax revenue**, and drive **\$10.6 billion in guest spending** that strengthens communities across Maryland.*

On behalf of the Maryland Hotel Lodging Association (MHLA), we respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to HB 994.

HB 994 imposes new requirements on Maryland hotels that receive compensation in exchange for arranging or providing transportation for registered guests.

As amended by the House, however, the bill does not apply comparably to short-term rental (STR) hosts or platforms - despite their significant and growing share of Maryland's lodging marketplace. This creates an uneven regulatory framework for providers operating in the same space.

**Where hotels and short-term rentals operate in the same marketplace, they should be treated consistently under the law.** To ensure that consistency, we respectfully request that the Committee strike lines 4–10 on page 4, thereby extending the same exemption to hotels as currently afforded to STRs.

If the bill is amended to provide equal treatment across the lodging industry, MHLA would be pleased to withdraw its opposition.

Thank you for your consideration, and we stand ready to work with the Committee to achieve a fair and consistent policy outcome.

**For more information, please contact:**

Amy Rohrer, President & CEO  
Maryland Hotel Lodging Association  
amy@MDLodging.org