

**MIKE GRIFFITH**  
*Legislative District 35A*  
Cecil and Harford Counties

Ways and Means Committee

*Subcommittees*

Early Childhood and  
Special Education

Revenues



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 423  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3444  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3444  
Mike.Griffith@house.maryland.gov

**THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**H.B. 0576 - State Archives - Record Services - Fees**

Chair Wells, Vice Chair Kerr, and Esteemed Members of the Government, Labor, and Elections Committee:

For the record, my name is Delegate Mike Griffith, and I respectfully request a favorable report on H.B. 576: *State Archives - Record Services - Fees*.

House Bill 576 is a straightforward, administrative measure that clarifies how fees are established by the Maryland State Archives. Specifically, the bill authorizes the State Archivist to establish certain fees by regulation rather than independently, ensuring that any adjustments to fees for record services follow Maryland's established regulatory process.

Under current law, the Archives may charge reasonable fees for the care and preservation of records, copies of records, plats, and vital records. This bill does not create new categories of fees, expand the Archivist's authority, or increase existing caps. Instead, it simply requires that those fees be established through the formal regulatory process, adding transparency, consistency, and appropriate oversight. The existing statutory framework remains intact, including the limitation that fees may not exceed 2% of an existing fee in certain circumstances and the requirement that 7% of collected fees continue to be deposited into the Archives Endowment Account.

Additionally, we intend to offer an amendment in collaboration with the Maryland State Archives that we view as friendly. As amended, the bill would only require the Archives to go through the regulatory process when establishing or changing fees related specifically to land and property records.

H.B. 576 promotes transparency, consistency, and good governance while preserving the Archives' ability to continue providing essential record services to the public.

For these reasons, I respectfully request a favorable report on House Bill 576.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mike Griffith', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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Delegate Mike Griffith  
District 35A, Cecil and Harford Counties  
Vice Chair, Maryland Veterans Caucus, Maryland General Assembly-House of Delegates