



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Jan H. Gardner
County Executive

2022 Legislative Package

Summary of Public Requests for Legislation and Position Statements

As of October 14, 2021

In response to a solicitation sent to over 80 organizations, board, commissions and associations, the following organizations sent a variety of requests related to legislative changes or suggestions. Some asked for new legislation, while others requested modifications to existing legislation passed in previous sessions. Many requests were in relation to the need for increased funding in order to meet growing needs for services. Still others provided input to any potential legislation that might be proposed during session.

Requests for Legislation

Heritage Frederick

Submitted by: Stefanie Basalik, Ph.D., Executive Director, Heritage Frederick

--

Heritage Frederick requests legislation to redirect \$15 of the \$25 marriage ceremony fee from the State to Heritage Frederick to support the preservation and maintenance of the County's marriage records.

Pleasant Hill Cemetery Association

Submitted by: John L. Thompson, Jr. on behalf of Pleasant Hill Cemetery Association

--

Request to add sections in Maryland Business Regulation Article to address the ownership of unused and vacant burial lots by placing a duty on an owner to maintain a mailing address with the cemetery and to provide a procedure whereby the ownership of a burial lot that remains unused and vacant for fifty years would revert to the cemetery.

Town of Emmitsburg

Submitted by: Don Briggs, Mayor, City of Emmitsburg

--

Town requests a modification to a requirement in the forest conservation law. Law requires the use of forest conservation fee in-lieu funds within two years or the monies need to be given back to the developer. Town would like consideration given to extending the two years to five or ten years.

Town of Mt. Airy

Submitted by:

--

Town requests adding Mt. Airy to the sixty-seven municipalities with Urban Renewal Authority to bring a blighted property owner to the table in order to create a meaningful dialogue on the future of the site.

Town of New Market

Submitted by: Winslow Burhans, Mayor, Town of New Market

--

Request addressing the requirements for personnel with regard to the ability to monitor speed cameras. It is their understanding that speed camera monitoring must be done by a law enforcement officer, which leads to unnecessary expense and challenges to law enforcement agencies in staffing to adequately meet the needs of patrol personnel.

Requests for Legislative Positions, Modifications to Existing Legislation

Affordable Housing Council

Submitted by: Mark Long, Chair, Affordable Housing Council

--

The Affordable Housing Council requests the following: 1) accelerate the full implementation of HB 18 Landlord and Tenant – Residential Tenants – Access to Counsel, currently set for October 1, 2025, to on or before October 1, 2023; and 2) propose adding non-profit developers of affordable housing projects to the exemption list of entities allowed to do condominium projects with a land trust ground lease.

Containment Laboratory Community Advisory Committee

Submitted by: Dr. Matthew Sharkey, Chair

--

The Containment Laboratory Community Advisory Committee modifications to 2021 HB Maryland Department of Health – Gene Synthesis Providers and Manufacturers of Gene Synthesis Equipment – Certification in the event that the legislation is proposed in the 2022 session.

Mental Health Advisory Committee

Submitted by: Dr. Pamela Blake, Chair, Mental Health Advisory Committee

--

The Committee suggests proposals to establish equitable medical service for individuals struggling with mental illness that will enhance the quality of health of those faced with high health care costs and long-term mental health care costs. Specifically, the Committee suggests addressing 1) the effect that a rise in income has on eligibility for State and/or Federal benefits; 2) the ability for an individual to augment their mental health care costs without jeopardizing access to other basic necessities, such as housing, food, or prescription drug assistance; 3) that Maryland fund psychiatric service dogs when prescribed by a physician or healthcare practitioner; and 4) that the State allow all expenses incurred for the care of a service dog as a medical expense in documentation for re-certification for state and federal living assistance.

Roads Board

Submitted by: Jason Stitt, Department Head, Department of Engineering and Construction Management and Staff Liaison, Frederick County Roads Board

--

The Roads Board requests a position statement in support of three issues: 1) restoration of Highway User Revenue distributions to local governments to levels that existed prior to 2008; 2) creation of a State program to aid local jurisdictions in the completion of ADA self-evaluations and Transition Plans; and 3) creation of a State fund to aid local jurisdictions carrying out repairs and replacements identified in their Transition Plans.

Sierra Club Catoctin Group

Submitted by: Paul Walker, Group Chair, Sierra Club Catoctin Group

--

The Sierra Club Catoctin Group request support positions for six topics: 1) Environmental Human Rights Amendment (2021 HB 82/SB 151); 2) Plastic Bag Reduction Act (2021 HB 314/SB 223); 3) action to control pollution of the Potomac River and Frederick County's air by Rockwool; 4) climate emergency legislation, similar to that in the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2021 (HB 583/SB 414); 5) "local deference" on stormwater management requirements for small lot construction and a related pilot program; and 6) legislation in opposition to toll lanes on I-495/I-270, 3P partnerships, beltway widening (2021 HB 67/SB 843 and HB 705).

Social Services Board

Submitted by: Debbie Marini, Director, Frederick County Department of Social Services and Staff Liaison, Social Services Board

--

The FCDSS Advisory Board, is interested in legislation that will improve our ability to keep children and vulnerable adults safe in our communities, such as providing online training for mandatory reporters. We also hope to support legislation that will make it easier for our transitional foster youth, who will be going to college, to obtain on-campus housing and connect them with a mentor/liaison to support them in that transition. Finally, for our community members who are receiving cash benefits and food stamps, we are supporting legislation that allows them to automatically qualify for other helpful assistance programs such as energy assistance.

Sustainability Commission

Submitted by: Dawn Ashbacher, OSER and Staff Liaison to the Sustainability Commission

--

The Frederick County Sustainability Commission have nine recommendations across three broad themes. With regard to long-term environmental goals, they suggest 1) piloting an alternative for stormwater mitigation for better results; 2) upgrading stormwater and wastewater conveyance and storage management; and 3) reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with the electricity grid. A goal for social sustainability would be to 4) accelerate solar deployment. And suggestions to foster economic stability include 5) expand the installation of microgrids; 6) transition all bus fleets to electric; 7) study the feasibility of electric rapid transit bus service and monorail; 8) support and encourage the regeneration of natural systems on agricultural lands; and 9) invest financially in climate solutions.

Other Input Received

The Arc of Frederick County, Inc.

Submitted by: Shauna Mulcahy, Director, Community Engagement

--

The Arc of Frederick County requests that transportation issues as they relate to people with disabilities are addressed. Specific issues include long waiting periods for TransIt Plus services and the need to increase maximums for the Taxi Access Program.

Commission for Women

Submitted by: Chelsea Kadish, President, Frederick County Commission for Women

--

The Commission for Women notes the challenges women continue to disproportionately face as the State recovers from the pandemic, namely the lack of access to reliable and speedy internet and the lack of high quality childcare. Additionally, they would like to see the Frederick County State Delegation represented on all General Assembly standing committees.

Historic Preservation Commission

Submitted by: Amanda Whitmore, Staff to the Historic Preservation Commission

--

The Commission requests include support for the following 1) increasing or, at the minimum, maintaining current funding levels to the State's historic preservation grant programs; 2) funding the State's Barn Preservation Fund; 3) maintaining current funding levels for the Maryland Heritage Areas Program; and 4) increasing the staffing levels and funding for the Maryland Historical Trust, the State's Historic Preservation Office.

Justice Jobs

Submitted by: Robert Clegg, PhD, Executive Director, Justice Jobs of Maryland, Inc.

--

Justice Jobs recommends a legislative funding request that will enable the provision of Sunday bus service on the same routes and times as provided on Saturdays. This will help to address the most practical barrier to employment.

Transportation Services Advisory Council

Submitted by: Roman Steichen, Director, TransIT Services of Frederick County and Staff Liaison, Transportation Services Advisory Board

--

The Roads Board requests support for the following positions: 1) Contributions from dialysis providers for patient transportation costs; 2) increased 5311 (rural fixed-route transit) operations funding; 3) increased paratransit (SSTAP) funding, 4) increased 5307 (urbanized area fixed-route transit operations to support expanded services; 5) modification of the Federal Transit Authority's allowable revenue vehicle spare part ratio for agencies that have adopted alternative fuel vehicles; and 6) reinforcement of municipal and inter-jurisdictional coordination, particularly in passenger amenities within the City of Frederick, and ensuring the preservation of regional connections to MTA, Greyhound, Bayrunner, etc.

United Way of Frederick County

Submitted by: Ken Oldham, President and CEO

--

The United Way of Frederick County proposes five recommendations to advance equity for working families in Frederick County – households known as “ALICE” (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed). 1) Ensure continued access to the COVID-19 and flu vaccines and testing; 2) Maintain basic needs security for County residents; 3) Increase the supply and accessibility of quality child care; 4) Increase availability to broadband access to remove barriers to online learning and telehealth; and 5) Continue to support State funding for the Volunteer income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, to ensure all qualifying families receive the earned income tax credit and the child care tax credit.

###