

Charles County Commissioners

2026 Preliminary Legislative Package



**County Commissioners of
Charles County, Maryland**

The Hon. Reuben B. Collins, II, Esq., President
The Hon. Ralph Patterson, M.A., Vice President
The Hon. Gilbert "BJ" Bowling, III
The Hon. Thomasina Coates, M.S.
The Hon. Amanda M. Stewart, Ed.D.

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HOAs from the unbridled collection of association fees, special assessments, or placing liens against the homeowners residing in Related Developments.

Solution (Explain how the proposal addresses the problem).

I am proposing an amendment to the Act that will, with your assistance, control and limit the power of these Primary Development HOAs to operate arbitrarily and capriciously outside the boundaries of their primary development and dictate/communicate directly with homeowners in the related developments without the authority and expressed written consent of the Related Development HOAs.

Organizational Support (List any organizations that would likely be in support of the proposal, even if not confirmed).

South Hampton Townhouse Community -Advocacy emphasizes representing and defending the interests of homeowners and subdivisions.

Proposed Draft Language (Provide draft language for the legislation if you have it).

See attached Amendment to the Maryland Homeowners Association Act

Other Information To Note

Given that the maximum number of documents allowed for upload is two, I will also email my proposal to the commissioner's office

Attachment(s)

[Amendment to the Maryland Homeowners Association Act 7-20-2025.docx](#)

[South Hampton Townhouse ByLaws - 07-20-2025.pdf](#)

Thank you,
Charles County, MD

This is an automated message generated by Granicus. Please do not reply directly to this email.

July 20, 2025

Commissioner Thomasina O. Coates, M.S. (District 2)
P.O. Box 2150
County Government Building
200 Baltimore Street
LaPlata, MD 20646-2150

Reference: Amendment to the Maryland Homeowners Association Act (ACT)

Dear Commissioner Coates:

My name is Gloria Sawyers, and I am a resident of your district and I need to call your attention to a very serious matter affecting citizens you serve.

The Issue:

I am writing to express my concern about the weakness of the above referenced ACT (MD Code, section 11B) and the limitless and unchecked power it allows Primary Development Home Owners Associations (HOA) to wheel over related communities. Outside of definitions, currently, there is nothing in the Act that prevents these Primary Development HOAs from the unbridled collection of association fees, special assessments, or placing liens against the homeowners residing in Related Developments.

I am proposing an amendment to the Act that will, with your assistance, control and limit the power of these Primary Development HOAs to operate arbitrarily and capriciously outside the boundaries of their primary development and dictate/communicate directly with homeowners in the related developments without the authority and expressed written consent of the Related Development HOAs.

Background

In the South Hampton Development there are two distinct and separate communities with two distinct and separate HOAs: the South Hampton Townhouse Owners Association (SHTHOA) and the South Hampton Homeowners Association (SHHOA). Each HOA has its own distinct and separate websites and management companies.

However, the SHHOA operates as the Primary Development HOA and directly collect annual assessments from Townhouse Owners residing in the Related Development SHTHOA community with no governing authority or control.

1. The practice goes against the SHTHOA governing ByLaws (Article XIII Assessments) that provide that each owner in South Hampton Townhouse Community is obligated to pay to the SHTHOA annual and special assessments...".

2. The Article does not in any way mention or suggest that owners in South Hampton Townhouse Community pay annual and/ special assessments to the SHHOA.
3. In addition to the requirements of Article XIII Assessments, Article VIII Maintenance, (Section 8.02: Association Maintenance) of the SHTHOA ByLaws provide that:

"The Association may, in the discretion of the Board of Directors, assume additional maintenance responsibilities upon all or any portion of the properties. In such event, all costs of such maintenance shall only be assessed against those owners receiving or benefiting or being served by the additional services."

The ByLaws does not give or grant authority for another HOA to perform maintenance or make assessments against Townhouse Owners in the SHTHOA.

4. According to the 2024 SHHOA proposed annual budget, an assessment of \$70,400 is being collected directly from the Townhouse Owners in the SHTHOA; however, the budget spreadsheet does not provide any details as to what or how the \$70,400 will be used or the benefits that the Townhouse owners in the SHTHOA will receive from the assessed amount.
 - a. The chart below shows the collection of SHHOA Association Fees from SHTHOA owners from 2021 through 2024:

Townhome Assessment Income				
Year	Quarterly Installments	Yearly Assessment	Number of Residents	Total Annual Income
2021	\$50	\$200	313	\$62,600
2022	\$52.50	\$210	313	\$67,200
2023	\$55	\$220	320	\$70,400
2024	\$55	\$220	320	\$70,400
2025	\$55	\$220	320	\$70,400

a1. The chart below shows the benefits (services, supplies, materials, etc.) the Townhome Owners received from the Assessment collected by the SHHOA.

Year of Assessment	Assessments	*Benefit(s)
2021	\$62,600	None listed
2022	\$67,200	None listed
2023	\$70,400	None listed
2024	\$70,400	None listed
2025	\$70,400	None listed

*Note: No benefits were recorded in the SHHOA annual yearly assessment report for the Townhouse Owners.

b. The chart below shows the Association Fees paid by the SHTHOA owners:

Townhouse Assessment Income				
Year	Quarterly Installments	Yearly Assessment	Number of Residents	Total Annual Income
2021	\$202.46	\$809.84	320	\$259,148.80
2022	\$202.46	\$809.84	320	\$259,148.80
2023	\$202.46	\$809.84	320	\$259,148.80
2024	\$202.46	\$809.84	320	\$259,148.80
2025	\$202.46	\$809.84	320	\$263,148.80

b1. The chart below shows the benefits (services, supplies, materials, etc.), the Townhouse Owners received from the Assessment collected by the SHTHOA.

Year of Assessment	Assessments	*Benefit(s)
2021	\$259,148.80	Administrative Expenses, Utilities, Maintenance & Repair, Grounds Maintenance, Reserve Activity
2022	\$259,148.80	Administrative Expenses, Utilities, Maintenance & Repair, Grounds Maintenance, Reserve Activity
2023	\$259,148.80	Administrative Expenses, Utilities, Maintenance & Repair, Grounds Maintenance, Reserve Activity
2024	\$259,148.80	Administrative Expenses, Utilities, Maintenance & Repair, Grounds Maintenance, Reserve Activity
2025	\$263,148.80	Administrative Expenses, Utilities, Maintenance & Repair, Grounds Maintenance, Reserve Activity

*Note: The SHTHOA annual assessment reports recorded the benefits identified. See Enclosure 2 and 3 for a list of activities for each category under the Benefit(s) column. The annual budgets reflecting the information in the charts above are enclosed.

The Solution:

To ensure that Primary Development HOAs have limits on their ability to impose arbitrary and uncontrolled assessments directly on the homeowners of Related Developments, an Amendment to the Maryland Homeowners Association Act is attached (see Attachment 1) for your review, consideration, and action.

Summary/Closing

I thank you in advance for moving the amendment through the legislative process and any other action you may take to ensure that the unchecked arbitrary actions and of Primary Development HOAs are brought under control.

If you have questions or need additional information, I am available to assist.

Sincerely,

Gloria Sawyers

A redacted signature of Gloria Sawyers, consisting of several horizontal lines of black ink on a white background.

Enclosures:

1. South Hampton Townhouse ByLaws -- 07-20-2025
2. South Hampton Townhouse Owners 2025 Approved Budget
3. South Hampton Homeowners 2025 Approved Budget
4. Article XIII Assessments
5. Article VIII – Maintenance Section 8-02 – Page 1
6. Article VIII – Maintenance Section 8-02 – Page 2

Attachment:

Amendment to the Maryland Homeowners Association Act

Amendment to the Maryland Homeowners Association Act

Amend Maryland Law § 11B-101, Section 2, Paragraph (k) and (m) of the legislation as follows:

(k) Primary Development: Means a development where the homeowners association governs a community of homes that are part of a larger development. A Primary Development HOA may have its own rules, fees, and amenities, but it may also share some common areas and services with other HOAs in a Related Development.

1. A Primary Development may impose assessments on homeowners in a Related Development. Any assessments imposed by the Primary Development HOA on homeowners in a Related Development shall be for services, materials, equipment, or other justifiable benefits not being provided by the HOA in the Related Development.
2. For any such assessments imposed, the Primary Development HOA shall collect all such assessments through the Related Development's HOA and not directly from the homeowners in the Related Development.
3. The Primary Development HOA shall maintain a separate account and records for all such assessments in 1 above, showing the amount collected and the services, materials, equipment, or other benefits derived from the assessments that satisfy the needs of the homeowners in the Related Development. The records shall be made available for the review and retention of the Related Development HOA upon request as established in the ByLaws of the Primary Development HOA.
4. The Primary Development shall ensure that the assessments it impose on a Related Development are fair and proportional to the benefits the homeowners in the Related Development receive.

(m) Related Development: Means a development where the purchasers of a lot pay fees to the homeowners' association (HOA) established by the lot owners in such development, and the HOA shall be responsible for collecting any assessments from its lot owners imposed by the Primary Development HOA.

1. The Related Development HOA shall include in its ByLaws a requirement that it will collect assessments imposed on its homeowners by the Primary Development HOA for

services, materials, equipment, or other justifiable benefits not being provided by the Related Development HOA.

2. The Related Development HOA shall include in its ByLaws language that indicates that all such assessments imposed in 1 above shall be paid by the homeowners to the Related Development HOA and not directly to the Primary Development HOA.
3. The Related Development HOA shall include in its ByLaws language that indicates that the Primary Development HOA will maintain a separate account and records for such assessments imposed in 1 above and that such records will be made available to its homeowners upon written request to the Related Development HOA in accordance with the Primary Development HOA Bylaws.
4. The Related Development HOA shall include in its ByLaws language that indicates it will review all assessments imposed by the Primary Development to ensure that they are fair and proportionate to the benefits the homeowners in the Related Development receive.

like which are for the benefit, in whole or in part, of other Owners within the Project, then the Owner of such Lot shall promptly, at his expense, repair any damage to such utilities caused by the Owner, his guests or invitees.

(1) The Association, its agents and employees, shall have an irrevocable right and an easement to enter the Lots for the purposes of exercising the rights and fulfilling the obligations established by this Declaration and any Supplementary Declarations recorded hereafter, including, without limitation, the right to maintain and care for the lawn and garden areas situated on any lot in accordance with this Declaration.

ARTICLE VIII Maintenance

Section 8.01. Owners' Rights and Responsibilities. Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Declaration, each Owner shall keep each Lot owned by him, and all improvements therein or thereon, in good order and repair and free of debris in a manner and with such frequency as is consistent with good property management and the Community-Wide Standard. In the event an Owner of any Lot in the Property shall fail to maintain the Lot and the improvements situated thereon, the Board of Directors or its agent shall have the right to enter upon said Lot to correct drainage and to repair, maintain and restore the Lot and the exterior of the building and any and all improvements erected thereon. Whenever entry is not required in an emergency situation, the Association shall afford the Owner reasonable notice and an opportunity to cure the problem prior to entry. All costs related to such correction, repair or restoration shall be collectible from the Owner of such Lot in the same manner as assessments as provided in Article V herein.

Section 8.02. Association Maintenance. The Association shall maintain and keep in good order the Common Area, such maintenance to be funded as hereinafter provided. In addition, the Association shall maintain and keep in good repair rights-of-way and entry strips, whether owned as part of a Lot or dedicated for public use, so long as the rights-of-way or entry strips are within or appurtenant or serve or benefit the Project. This obligation shall include, but not be limited to, maintenance, repair and replacement, subject to any insurance then in effect, of all landscaping and all flora, structures and improvements situated upon such areas. The Association shall also maintain any entrance features and signage situated within the Property, or which serves

or is appurtenant to the Community. Such maintenance shall include, but not be limited to, the repair and replacement of such entrance features and signage as determined by the Board of Directors of the Association. The Association shall also be responsible for the maintenance of any retaining or separation walls or fences whether located in the Common Area or on one or more Lots and shall have a perpetual easement over, across and through the Property to perform such maintenance.

The Association may, in the discretion of the Board of Directors, assume additional maintenance responsibilities upon all or any portion of the Properties. In such event, all costs of such maintenance shall be assessed only against those Owners receiving or benefiting or being served by the additional services. This assumption of responsibility may take place either by contract or because, in the opinion of the Board, the level and quality of service then being provided is not consistent with the Community-Wide Standard of the Project. The provision of services in accordance with this Section shall not constitute discrimination within a class.

The Association shall also have the right to enter any Lot, including the dwelling unit located on such Lot, without the consent of the Owner and/or occupant thereof, to conduct any emergency repairs as are necessary for the maintenance and protection of the Common Area and the lawn and garden areas. The costs of such repairs shall be collectible from the owner of such Lot in the same manner as assessments as provided in Article V herein.

ARTICLE IX Insurance

Section 9.01. Individual Coverage. By virtue of taking title to a Lot, each Owner covenants and agrees with all other Owners and with the Association that each individual Owner shall carry blanket all risk casualty insurance on the dwelling and all structures located upon the Lot, at a minimum, such coverage shall provide coverage against loss or damage by fire or other hazards in an amount sufficient to cover the full replacement cost of any repair or reconstruction work in the event of damage or destruction from any insured hazard. The Board of Directors of the Association, or its duly authorized agent, shall have the authority to obtain insurance for all or any of the dwellings located on the Property, unless the Owners thereof have supplied proof of adequate coverage to the Board of Directors' satisfaction. Each Owner further covenants and agrees that in the event of a partial loss or damage

agents or attorneys, and to the institutional holder of any first mortgage on any Lot and its duly authorized agents or attorneys, during normal business hours and for purposes reasonably related to their respective interests and after reasonable notice. The Declaration, the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of the Association shall be available for inspection by any member at the principal office of the Association, where copies may be purchased at reasonable cost.

ARTICLE XIII
Assessments

As more fully provided in the Declaration, each member is obligated to pay to the Association annual and special assessments which are secured by a continuing lien upon the property against which the assessment is made. Any assessments which are not paid when due shall be delinquent. If the assessment is not paid within thirty (30) days after the due date, the assessment shall bear interest from the date of delinquency at the maximum rate permitted by law (or such lesser sum as VA or FHA shall specify if any Lot is insured by FHA or guaranteed by VA), and the Association may bring an action at law against the Owner personally obligated to pay the same or foreclose the lien against the property, and interest, costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees of any such action shall be added to the amount of such assessment. No Owner may waive or otherwise escape liability for the assessments provided for herein by non-use of the Common Area or abandonment of his Lot.

ARTICLE XIV
Corporate Seal

The Association shall have a seal in circular form having within its circumference the words: SOUTH HAMPTON TOWNHOUSE ASSOCIATION, INC., a Maryland non-stock corporation.

ARTICLE XV
Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended, at a regular or special meeting of the members, by a vote of a majority of a quorum of members present in person or by proxy, except that if any Lot subject to these Bylaws is then encumbered by a mortgage or deed of trust guaranteed by VA or insured by FHA, then VA and/or FHA (as applicable) shall have the right to veto amendments while there is Class B membership.

SOUTH HAMPTON 2025 BUDGET

GL Account	2025 Budget	Notes
Income		
41010 - Assessment Income	\$100,320.00	Based on 228 units x \$440.00
41011 - TH-Assessment Income	\$70,400.00	Based on 320 units x \$220.00
41014 - Admin. Fee Reimbursable	\$500.00	Returned check fee billed to homeowner
41017 - Late Notice Fee-Reimbursable	\$5,000.00	Late notice fee billed to homeowner
41018 - Legal Referral -Reimbursable	\$2,000.00	Legal referral fee billed to homeowner
41019 - Attorney Fees - Reimbursable	\$30,000.00	Homeowner recovered attorney fees
41022 - Allowance for Doubtful Accts	-\$10,032.00	Based on delinquencies
41300 - Interest Income	\$300.00	Interest on bank accounts
TOTAL INCOME	\$198,488.00	
Expense		
71010 - Bank Charges	\$100.00	Up to \$15.00 per month
71020 - Office Expense	\$6,000.00	Printing, supplies, scans, postage, packets
71022 - Storage	\$2,300.00	HOA owned items in storage unit
71023 - Admin. Fee Reimbursable	\$500.00	NSF return checks, re-bill fees, etc
71024 - Late Notice Fees-Reimbursable	\$5,000.00	Mailed late notices
71025 - Legal Referral-Reimbursable	\$2,000.00	Attorney referral for collections
71054 - Interactive Website Expense	\$1,600.00	Website hosting
71060 - Insurance	\$5,200.00	Insurance policy coverage
71070 - Bad Debt Expense	\$3,000.00	Uncollectable accounts per attorney
71092 - Electricity- Streetlights	\$11,000.00	Electricity for streetlights
71096 - Trash Removal	\$50,178.24	Evergreen \$18.34 per SFH unit
71201 - Grounds Maintenance	\$22,000.00	Common area maintenance
71210 - Trees/Other Grounds Maintenance	\$3,300.00	Tree trimming/other grounds maintenance
71402 - Mosquito Spraying	\$2,000.00	Mosquito spraying of common areas
71500 - Social Expense	\$4,000.00	Social events
71610 - Repair/Maintenance	\$9,000.00	Repairs and maintenance
71801 - Legal Expense	\$1,200.00	Legal opinion/document review
71802 - Attorney Fees-Reimbursable	\$30,000.00	Collections cost
71803 - Management Expense	\$17,979.00	Management services fee
71804 - Accounting Expense	\$1,740.00	CPA prepared taxes and audit
71812 - Court Appearances	\$500.00	Witness to attend collections cases
72000 - Reserve Fund Contribution	\$19,890.76	Contribution for future repairs/replacements
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$198,488.00	
2025 SINGLE FAMILY HOMES ASSESSMENT - \$440.00		
Quarterly payments of \$110.00 due on January 15th, April 15th, July 15th and October 15th 2025		
A Late Notice Fee of \$15.00 is charged 30 days from due date if payment isn't received. If payment isn't received by the due date, the full remaining balance becomes delinquent after 60 days and your account will be turned over to the association's collections attorney. Additional legal costs will be incurred.		
		2025 TOWNHOMES ASSESSMENT - \$220.00
		Quarterly payments of \$55.00 due on January 15th, April 15th, July 15th and October 15th 2025
		Any homeowner who has an unpaid balance due from any prior year (including assessments, late charges, interest or collection costs and attorney's fees), will not be afforded the option (which is not a right but, rather, a courtesy afforded by the Association to Members in good standing) of paying their new assessments in installments. The entire annual assessment is fully due and payable on or before January 31 st . Additionally, the Association's accounting rules conforms to the standard business accounting principle of applying all payments to the oldest debt. Therefore, any monies received in the current year will be applied to the oldest year for which you are delinquent, not the most recent year.

Account	Year 2025
	Approved
	\$202,46/Qtr
INCOME	
Assessment Income	
Homeowner Dues Income	259,148.80
Late Fee Income	3,000.00
Arch Fees Income	500.00
NSF	0.00
Collections Cost Income	0.00
Legal Fees Income	500.00
Owner Interest	0.00
Parking Pass Replacement	0.00
Total OPERATING INCOME	263,148.80
EXPENSES	
Administrative Expenses	
Administrative Fees	600.00
Audit and Accounting	2,575.00
Bad Debt Expense	38,872.32
Bank Service Charges	100.00
Insurance	10,250.00
Legal - General	1,000.00
Legal - Small Claims	6,000.00
Management Contract	47,653.80
Meeting Expenses	0.00
Office Supplies	200.00
Postage and Delivery	1,200.00
Printing and Copying	3,000.00
Reserve Study	0.00
Taxes	0.00
Trash Pickup Contract	59,520.00
Website Hosting & Admin	0.00
Total Administrative Expenses	170,971.12
Utilities	
Electric	7,200.00
Total Utilities	7,200.00
Maintenance & Repairs	
Electrical/Lighting Rep/Maint	500.00
Fence Rep/Maint	1,000.00
General Repairs and	5,000.00
Playground Rep/Maint	500.00
Road/Walkway Rep/Maint	1,000.00
Signage Rep/Maint	300.00
Total Maintenance & Repairs	8,300.00
Grounds Maintenance	
Grounds Maintenance	3,000.00
Landscaping (Contracted)	45,898.00
Snow Removal	10,000.00
Storm Water Management	5,000.00
Trash Removal	0.00
Tree Removal/Pruning	3,500.00
Total Grounds Maintenance	67,398.00
Reserve Activity	
Budgeted Reserve Contribution	9,279.68
Total Reserve Activity	9,279.68
Total OPERATING EXPENSE	263,148.80
Net - Operating Totals	0.00

***NEW SUBMISSION* Legislation Proposal - County Attorney**

From DO NOT REPLY - UNMONITORED ACCOUNT <no-reply@charlescountymd.gov>

Date Mon 7/28/2025 5:45 PM

To Danielle E. Mitchell <MitchelD@charlescountymd.gov>; County Attorney <coattorney@charlescountymd.gov>

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Legislation Proposal - County Attorney

Submission #: 4220413

IP Address:

Submission Date: 07/28/2025 5:45

Survey Time: 6 minutes, 10 seconds

You have a new online form submission.

Note: all answers displaying "*****" are marked as sensitive and must be viewed after your login.

Legislative Proposals**Questions or More Information 301-645-0555**

This form should be used to submit legislative proposals for amendments, additions, or deletions to the Charles County Code or State of Maryland Code. Please submit the completed form online, or print and mail to: County Attorney's Office, 200 Baltimore Street, La Plata, Maryland 20646. Please attach responses to questions that require additional space to answer and indicate the question number on the attachment.

Contact Person Name

Carlos Childs

Contact Person Email**Contact Person Phone****Contact Person Address****Proposal Summary (Describe proposal in 1 sentence)**

Switching our current process for filing vacancies on the Board of Commissioners, Sheriff, and State's Attorney.

Code References (List any sections/chapters of the Charles County or State Code that you believe would be impacted by the proposal, if known)

N/A

Problem (Describe the problem the proposal addresses)

Currently when a Commissioner, Sheriff, or State's Attorney vacates their office the central committee, of the party that held the office, decided who gets to finish out the term of the vacated office. This means that residents do not have a way in who represents if a vacancy occurs.

Solution (Explain how the proposal addresses the problem).

This would allow residents to vote for who represents them when a vacancy occurs.

Organizational Support (List any organizations that would likely be in support of the proposal, even if not confirmed).

N/A

Proposed Draft Language (Provide draft language for the legislation if you have it).

- A special election for Commissioner, Sheriff, or State's Attorney shall be held within 180 days after a vacancy. - If a vacancy occurs within 180 days of a presidential primary election, the election to fill the vacancy shall be added to the general election ballot. - If a vacancy occurs within 180 days of a gubernatorial primary election, the Central Committee representing the political party of the vacated Commissioner, Sheriff, or State's Attorney shall appoint someone, within 60 days, to serve the remainder of the term. - For the purpose of term limits, the appointed Commissioner shall be seen as serving one term. - The appointed Commissioner, Sheriff, or State's Attorney shall be prohibited from running for the seat they have been appointed to in the upcoming gubernatorial election. - Any person who has filed as a candidate for the Commissioner, Sheriff, or State's Attorney shall be prohibited from being appointed.

Other Information To Note

Attachment(s)

[Special Elections legislative proposal.pdf](#)

Thank you,

Charles County, MD

This is an automated message generated by Granicus. Please do not reply directly to this email.

Special Election legislative proposal summary:

- If a Commissioner, the Sheriff , or State's Attorney vacates their office during a term a special election shall be held to fill the vacancy.
 - A special election for Commissioner, Sheriff, or State's Attorney shall be held within 180 days after a vacancy.
 - If a vacancy occurs within 180 days of a presidential primary election, the election to fill the vacancy shall be added to the general election ballot.
 - If a vacancy occurs within 180 days of a gubernatorial primary election, the Central Committee representing the political party of the vacated Commissioner, Sheriff, or State's Attorney shall appoint someone, within 60 days, to serve the remainder of the term.
 - For the purpose of term limits, the appointed Commissioner shall be seen as serving one term.
 - The appointed Commissioner, Sheriff, or State's Attorney shall be prohibited from running for the seat they have been appointed to in the upcoming gubernatorial election.
 - Any person who has filed as a candidate for the Commissioner, Sheriff, or State's Attorney shall be prohibited from being appointed.

***NEW SUBMISSION* Legislation Proposal - County Attorney**

From DO NOT REPLY - UNMONITORED ACCOUNT <no-reply@charlescountymd.gov>

Date Sat 8/2/2025 12:16 AM

To Danielle E. Mitchell <MitchelD@charlescountymd.gov>; County Attorney <coattorney@charlescountymd.gov>

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Legislation Proposal - County Attorney

Submission #: 4232835

IP Address: 64.233.162.100

Submission Date: 08/02/2025 12:16

Survey Time: 9 minutes, 13 seconds

You have a new online form submission.

Note: all answers displaying "*****" are marked as sensitive and must be viewed after your login.

Legislative Proposals**Questions or More Information 301-645-0555**

This form should be used to submit legislative proposals for amendments, additions, or deletions to the Charles County Code or State of Maryland Code. Please submit the completed form online, or print and mail to: County Attorney's Office, 200 Baltimore Street, La Plata, Maryland 20646. Please attach responses to questions that require additional space to answer and indicate the question number on the attachment.

Contact Person Name

Mike Moses

Contact Person Email

Mike.Moses@charlescountymd.gov

Contact Person Phone**Contact Person Address**

www.charlescountymd.gov

Proposal Summary (Describe proposal in 1 sentence)

Veterans Claims Predator Law

Code References (List any sections/chapters of the Charles County or State Code that you believe would be impacted by the proposal, if known)

N/A

Problem (Describe the problem the proposal addresses)

Non Accredited/Certified individuals charging \$\$ to Veterans to initiate an Intent to file.

Solution (Explain how the proposal addresses the problem).

Related to veterans' benefits assistance; puts limits on compensation; terms of engagement; written disclosure; outlines prohibitions; requires a background check, documentation; complaint process. Must complete Training, Responsibility, Involvement, and Preparation of Claims (TRIP) course and any. Any such compensation may not exceed the lesser of four times the amount of the monthly increase in benefits awarded based on the claim of \$12,500, and must be paid out according to the specific terms agreed to by both parties in accordance with subparagraph. A provider who advises, assists, or consults on veterans' benefits matters for compensation shall provide the following disclosure, both orally and in writing, before entering into a business relationship with an individual.

Organizational Support (List any organizations that would likely be in support of the proposal, even if not confirmed).

Other federally chartered veterans' service organizations include Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), and the National Association for Black Veterans (NABVETS). Other organizations, including, but not limited to the Office of Veterans Affairs, a local veterans' service organization, and other federally chartered veterans' service organizations, may be able to provide you with this service free of charge.

Proposed Draft Language (Provide draft language for the legislation if you have it).

This business is not sponsored by or affiliated with the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, or any other federally chartered veterans' service organization. Other organizations, including but not limited to the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, local veterans' service organizations, and other federally chartered veterans' service organizations, may be able to provide you with this service free of charge. Any of these organizations does not necessarily endorse products or services offered by this business. You may qualify for other veterans' benefits beyond the benefits for which you are receiving services here. The written disclosure must appear in a legible font in at least 12-point type immediately above the signature line. It must be signed by the individual to signify that he or she understands the oral and written disclosures' provisions. The provider shall retain a copy of the written disclosure while providing veterans'

Other Information To Note

Attachment(s)

[2025 CLAIM PREDATOR LAW ANALYSIS \(2\)\(1\).pdf](#)

Thank you,
Charles County, MD

This is an automated message generated by Granicus. Please do not reply directly to this email.

CLAIM PREDATOR LAW ANALYSIS

In Order of Year Passed

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CLAIM PREDATOR LAW ANALYSIS

In Order of Year Passed

Washington State Senate Bill 6208, signed into law in August 2014

Intent of the legislature in passing the bill is to restrict how individuals receive compensation and remuneration for providing assistance with veterans' benefit-related services and to encourage certain disclosures from individuals offering veterans' benefit-related services. It adds a new chapter to Title 19 RCW.

Definition: "Compensation:" money, property, or anything else of value, which includes, but is not limited to, exclusive arrangements or agreements for the provision of services or the purchase of products.

Definition: "Person:" includes, where applicable, natural persons, corporations, trust, unincorporated associations, and partnerships.

Definition: "Trade or commerce:" includes the marketing or sale of assets, goods, or services, or any commerce directly or indirectly affecting the people of the state of Washington.

Definition: "Veterans' benefit matter:" any preparation, presentation, or prosecution of a claim affecting a person who has filed or has expressed an intention to file an application for determination of payment, service, commodity, function, or status, entitlement to which is determined under laws administered by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the Washington state department of veterans affairs pertaining to veterans, dependents, and survivors.

Regulation of Conduct (actions):

A person may not engage in the following acts or practices:

- 1) Receiving compensation for advising or assisting another person with a veterans' benefit matter, except as permitted under Title 38 of the United States Code;
- 2) Using financial or other personal information gathered in order to prepare documents for, or otherwise represent the interests of, another in a veterans' benefit matter for purposes of trade or commerce;
- 3) Receiving compensation for referring another person to a person accredited by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs;
- 4) Representing, either directly or by implication, either orally or in writing, that the receipt of a certain level of veterans' benefits is guaranteed.

Regulation of Conduct (disclosure):

- 1) It is unlawful for any person to advertise or promote any event, presentation, seminar, workshop, or other public gathering regarding veterans' benefits or entitlements that does not include the following disclosure:
"This event is not sponsored by, or affiliated with, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs, or any other congressionally chartered or recognized organization of honorably discharged members of the Armed Forces of the United States or any of their auxiliaries. Products or services that may be discussed at this event are not necessarily endorsed by those organizations. You may qualify for benefits other than or in addition to the benefits discussed at this event."
- 2) The disclosure required by subsection (1) of this section must be in the same type size and font as the term "veteran" or any variation of that term as used in the event advertisement or promotional materials.

CLAIM PREDATOR LAW ANALYSIS

- 3) The disclosure required by subsection (1) of this section must be disseminated, both orally and in writing, at the beginning of any event, presentation, seminar, workshop, or other public gathering regarding veterans' benefits or entitlements.
- 4) The disclosure required by subsection (1) of this section does not apply where the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs, or any other congressionally chartered or recognized organization of honorably discharged members of the armed forces of the United States or any of their auxiliaries have granted written permission to the advertiser or promoter for the use of its name, symbol, or insignia to advertise or promote such events, presentations, seminars, workshops, or other public gatherings. The disclosure required by subsection (1) of this section also does not apply where the event, presentation, seminar, workshop, or gathering is part of an accredited continuing legal education course.

Further provisions:

Nothing in this chapter applies to officers, employees, or volunteers of the state, of any county, city, or other political subdivision, or of a federal agency of the United States, who are acting in their official capacity.

If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is not affected.

CLAIM PREDATOR LAW ANALYSIS

Iowa Amendment to Section 35A.5, Code 2015, effective April 24, 2015

Requires disclosures by private providers of veterans benefits services including penalties

Amended the Code by adding the following:

In coordination with the county commissions of veterans affairs, develop a written disclosure statement for use by private providers of veterans benefits services under section 546B.3. At a minimum, the written disclosure statement shall include a signature line, contact information for the department, and a statement that veterans benefits services are offered at no cost by federally chartered veteran service organizations and by county commission of veteran affairs offices, as maintained pursuant to section 35B.6.

Definition: Amended the Code by adding “**Veterans benefits services:**” services which a veteran, or a family member of a veteran, might reasonably utilize in order to obtain federal, state, or county veterans benefits.

Definition: “**Written disclosure statement:**” written disclosure statement developed by the department of veterans affairs pursuant to section 35A.5, subsection 18.

Regulation of Conduct: Veterans benefits services disclosure requirements civil penalties.

1. A person who provides veterans benefits services in exchange for compensation shall provide a written disclosure statement to each client or prospective client. Before a person enters into such an agreement to provide veterans benefits services or accepts money or any other thing of value for the provision of veterans benefits services, the person must obtain the signature of the client on a written disclosure statement containing an attestation by the client that the client has read and understands the written disclosure statement.
2. A person who violates the provisions of this section is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed one thousand dollars for each violation. Civil penalties shall be assessed by the district court in an action initiated by the attorney general. For the purposes of computing the amount of each civil penalty, each service provided by the person constitutes a separate violation. Additionally, the attorney general may accept a civil penalty as determined by the attorney general in settlement of an investigation of a violation of this section regardless of whether an action has been filed pursuant to this section. Any civil penalty recovered shall be deposited in the veterans trust fund created in section 35A.13.

Michigan HB-5015, signed into law as Public Act 138 of 2017

The bill amended the Michigan Consumer Protection Act to address certain issues related to consumer protection, in particular, in connection with providing or offering to provide a veterans' benefit service to a veteran or a family member of a veteran.

Regulation of Conduct (disclosure): An individual who is engaged in trade or commerce shall not do any of the following in connection with providing or offering to provide a veterans' benefit service to a veteran or a family member of a veteran:

- (A) When meeting with the veteran or family member, fail to provide written notice to the veteran or family member of all of the following:
 - (i) that the individual is not affiliated with a veterans' agency or organization.
 - (ii) that the veterans' benefit service is available free of charge from a veterans' agency or organization.
 - (iii) that the veteran may qualify for benefits other than or in addition to the benefits the veteran or family member may obtain if the individual is engaged to provide the veterans' benefit service.
 - (iv) that receipt of a certain level of veterans benefits is not guaranteed if the individual is engaged to provide the veterans' benefit service.
- (B) When meeting with the veteran or family member, fail to verbally review the written notice required under subdivision (A) with the veteran or family member.

All of the following apply to the notice required under subsection (1):

- (A) The written notice must be in the same type size and font as the term "veteran" or any variation of that term used by the individual in any advertisement or promotional materials published by the individual in connection with his or her business.
- (B) The individual must provide the written and verbal notice at the beginning of the meeting with the veteran or family member of a veteran and may request that the veteran or family member sign a for acknowledging that he or she received and understands the contents of the notice.

The above does not apply to "an individual who is an officer, employee, or volunteer of this state, of any county, city, or other political subdivision or this state, or of a federal agency of the United States and is acting in his or her official capacity." It also doesn't apply to "an individual who has written permission from a veterans' agency or organization to provide or offer to provide the veterans' benefit service on its behalf and presents that written permission to the veteran or family member when he or she meets with a veteran or family member of a veteran to discuss the veterans' benefit service.

Definition: "Veterans' agency or organization:" the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency, or any other congressionally chartered or recognized organization of honorably discharged members of the Armed Forces of the United States or auxiliary of that organization.

Definition: "Veterans' benefit service:" any of the following – preparation, presentation, or prosecution of a claim affecting an individual who has filed or has expressed an intention to file an application for veteran, dependent, or survivor pension or medical benefits under laws administered by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs pertaining to veterans, dependents, and survivors; advice or representation concerning the preparation, presentation, or prosecution of a claim described in the above.

CLAIM PREDATOR LAW ANALYSIS

State of New York, Senate Bill 4807, signed into law in August 2019

Is known and cited as the “pension poaching prevention act.” The intent of the bill is to “restrain this harmful and deceptive practice within New York State, providing necessary protections to the men and women of this state who courageously served in our nation’s armed forces.” All the below is in section 349-f of New York’s general business law.

Definition: “Veterans’ benefits matter:” the preparation, presentation, or prosecution of any claim affecting any person who has filed or expressed an intent to file a claim for any benefit, program, service, commodity, function, or status, entitlement which is determined under the laws and regulations administered by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the New York state division of veterans’ affairs pertaining to veterans, their dependents, their survivors, and any other party eligible for such benefits.

Definition: “Compensation:” money, property, or anything else of value.

Definition: “Entity:” includes, but is not limited to, any natural person, corporation, trust, partnership, alliance, or unincorporated association.

Regulation of Conduct (actions):

- a) No entity shall receive compensation for advising or assisting any party with any veterans’ benefits matter, except as permitted under title 38 of the United States code and the corresponding provisions within title 38 of the United States code of federal regulations.
- b) No entity shall receive compensation for referring any party to another individual to advise or assist this party with any veterans’ benefits matter.
- c) Any entity seeking to receive compensation for advising or assisting any party with any veterans’ benefits matter shall, before rendering any services, memorialize all terms regarding the party’s payment of fees for services rendered in a written agreement, signed by both parties, that adheres to all criteria specified within title 38 section 14.636, of the United States code of federal regulations.
- d) No entity shall receive any fees for any services rendered before the date on which a notice of disagreement is filed with respect to the party’s case.
- e) No entity shall guarantee, either directly or by implication, that any party is certain to receive specific veterans’ benefits or that any party is certain to receive a specific level, percentage, or amount of veterans’ benefits.
- f) No entity shall receive excessive or unreasonable fees as compensation for advising or assisting any party with any veterans’ benefits matter. The factors articulated within title 38, section 14.636 of the code of federal regulations shall govern determinations of whether a fee is excessive or unreasonable.

Regulation of Conduct (disclosure):

- a) No entity shall advise or assist for compensation any party with any veterans’ benefits matter without clearly providing, at the outset of this business relationship, the following disclosure, both orally and in writing: *“this business is not sponsored by, or affiliated with, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the New York state division of veterans’ affairs, or any other congressionally chartered veterans service organization. Other organizations, including but not limited to the New York state division of veterans’ affairs, your local county veterans service agency, and other congressionally chartered veterans service organizations, may be able to provide you with this service free of charge. Products or services offered by this business are not necessarily endorsed by any of these organizations. You may qualify for other veterans’ benefits beyond the benefits for which you are receiving services here.”* The written disclosure must appear in at least twelve-point font and must appear in a readily noticeable and identifiable place in the entity’s agreement with the party seeking services. The party must verbally acknowledge

CLAIM PREDATOR LAW ANALYSIS

understanding of the oral disclosure and must provide his or her signature to represent understanding of these provisions on the document in which the written disclosure appears. The entity offering services must retain a copy of the written disclosure while providing veterans' benefits services for compensation to the party and for at least one year after the date on which this service relationship terminates.

b) No entity shall advertise for-compensation services in veterans benefits matters without including the following disclosure: *"this business is not sponsored by, or affiliated with, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the New York state division of veterans' affairs, or any other congressionally chartered veterans service organization. Other organizations, including but not limited to the New York state division of veterans' affairs, your local county veterans service agency, and other congressionally chartered veterans service organizations, may be able to provide you with these services free of charge. Products or services offered by this business are not necessarily endorsed by any of these organizations. You may qualify for other veterans' benefits beyond the services that this business offers."* If the advertisement is printed, including but not limited to advertisements visible to internet users, the disclosure must appear in a readily visible place on the advertisement. If the advertisement is verbal, the spoken statement of the disclosure must be clear and intelligible.

Further provisions:

- a) Any violation of this section shall constitute a deceptive act in the conduct of business, trade, or commerce, and shall be subject to the provisions of section three hundred forty nine of this article, including any right of action and corresponding penalties described within such section.
- b) If any entity's violation of this section concerns a party who is sixty-five years of age or older, said entity may be liable for supplemental civil penalties as established within, and subject of the terms of, section three hundred forty-nine-c of this article.

If any clause, sentence, paragraph or part of this section or the application thereof shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered.

CLAIM PREDATOR LAW ANALYSIS

Nevada Assembly Bill 316 (A.B. 316), effective May 29, 2021

Requires the disclosure of certain information concerning certain events and services relating to benefits or entitlements for veterans; creating a cause of action for certain violations of such requirements; providing a civil penalty; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Regulation of Conduct: Section 2 added to Chapter 417 of NRS:

1. Any person who advertises or promotes any event or other public gathering relating to benefits or entitlements for veterans shall, at the beginning of the event or other public gathering, make an oral announcement and provide to each attendee a written disclosure. The oral announcement and written disclosure must be in the following form:

This event is not sponsored by, or affiliated with, the United States Department of Veterans Services or any congressionally chartered or recognized organization of honorable discharged members of the Armed Forces of the United States. Products or services that may be discussed at this event are not necessarily endorsed by those organizations. You may qualify for benefits other than or in addition to the benefits discussed at this event.

2. Any person who advertises or promotes services to represent or assist veterans in matters relating to benefits or entitlements for veterans, shall provide a disclosure on all materials used to advertise or promote those services in the following form:

No compensation may be received by any person advising or assisting another person with a matter relating to veterans' benefits except as authorized under Title 38 of the United States Code. Veterans' benefit services are offered at no cost by federally chartered veteran service organizations and accredited veteran service officers. The services being offered are not provided by or affiliated with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or any other governmental agency or recognized veterans services organization. You may qualify for benefits other than or in addition to benefits obtained by the services offered.

3. Any written disclosure made pursuant to this section must be conspicuous and appear in the same type face and font as the largest use of the term "veteran" or any similar term that appears in the advertising or promotional material containing the written disclosure.

4. The requirements of this section do not apply to:

- a. Any congressionally chartered or recognized organization of honorably discharged members of the Armed Forces of the United States or any affiliate of such an organization;
- b. Any person who has obtained written permission from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Veterans Services or any other organization described in paragraph a. to use the name, symbol or insignia of the agency or organization to promote any event or other public gathering relating to benefits or entitlements for veterans;
- c. An event or other public gathering that is part of a course or program of continuing education for an attorney; or
- d. The owner or personnel of any medium in which an advertisement appears or through which an advertisement is disseminated.

Definition: In section 5, "advertise:" use any written or printed communication, directory listing or a radio, television, computer network or similar airwave or electronic transmission to solicit or promote services relating to benefits or entitlements for veterans. The terms do not include any printing or writing used on a building, uniform or badge for identification purposes or used in a memorandum or other communication in the ordinary course of business that does not solicit or promote services relating to benefits or entitlements for veterans.

CLAIM PREDATOR LAW ANALYSIS

Regulation of Conduct in Section 3:

1. Any person who provides services to obtain veterans' benefits in exchange for compensation shall provide written disclosure in the form prescribed pursuant to subsection 2 and obtain the signature from a client or prospective client before entering into an agreement for such services.
2. The Department shall prescribe the form for such written disclosure. The form must include, without limitation:
 - a. A signature line;
 - b. An attestation that the client has read and understands the written disclosure;
 - c. The contact information for the Department; and
 - d. A statement that services for veterans' benefits are offered at no cost by service organizations that are federally chartered and veterans services officers.

Definition: In section 3, “**services to obtain veterans' benefits**:” services that a veteran or an agent of a veteran uses to obtain federal, state or other benefits or entitlements for veterans.

Any civil penalty collected to be deposited in the State's Gift Account for Veterans.

CLAIM PREDATOR LAW ANALYSIS

Illinois Public Act 102-0386, effective January 1, 2022

Amended the Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act by adding below.

Deceptive practices targeting veterans and military members.

Definition: "**Veteran or military benefits services:**" any services offered or provided to a veteran, military member, or family member who is enrolled to receive benefits under federal, State, or local law, policy, or practice as a result of, at least in part, qualifying military service. Such services include assistance in obtaining benefits, increasing benefits, or appealing a decision related to obtaining or increasing benefits.

Definition: "**Veteran's services disclosure:**" providing, in upper case type in size at least as large as the typed size of the written communication or by voice-over, the following statement: "*VETERAN AND MILITARY BENEFITS SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE FROM COUNTY VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS, THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND FEDERALLY CHARTERED VETERAN SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS. TO LEARN MORE, CONTACT THESE ORGANIZATIONS OR THE ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE AT 1-800-382-3000.*"

Regulation of Conduct: Unlawful practice within the meaning of this Act for any person providing veteran or military benefits services to:

- 1) Fail in any advertising to conspicuously disclose a veteran's services disclosure when veteran or military benefits services are provided in exchange for a benefit or thing of value.
- 2) Fail to obtain, or to obtain a pending application for, all veteran or military benefits services qualifications, certifications, and accreditations required under State or federal law.
- 3) Fail, when acting as a fiduciary for a veteran receiving benefits, to meet the responsibilities of fiduciaries under 38 CFR 13.140.
- 4) Fail, when providing representation before the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, to meet the standards of conduct under 38 CFR 14.632.
- 5) Charge fees or expenses in violation of 38 CFR 14.636 or 14.637.

Louisiana Preserving Lawful Utilization of Services for Veterans Act (SB159), effective June 3, 2024

Relative to services for veterans, the Act provides for restrictions on services provided to veterans for compensation; definitions; disclosures; relative for violations; and for related matters.

Definition: "Compensation:" any money, thing of value, or economic benefit conferred on, or received by, any person in return for services rendered, or to be rendered, by a person.

Definition: "Person:" any natural person, corporation, trust, partnership, incorporated or unincorporated association, or any other legal entity.

Definition: "Veterans' benefits matter:" the preparation, presentation, or prosecution of any claim affecting any person who has filed or expressed an intent to file a claim for any benefit, program, service, commodity, function, status, or entitlement to which is determined to pertain to veterans, their dependents, their survivors, or any other individual eligible for such benefits under the laws and regulations administered by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs.

Regulation of Conduct (limits on compensation):

- 1) No person shall receive compensation for referring any individual to another person to advise or assist the individual with any veterans' benefits matter.
- 2) No person shall receive any compensation for any services rendered in connection with any claim filed within the one-year presumptive period of active-duty release.
- 3) No person shall receive any compensation for any services rendered in connection with any claim for pension benefits.

A person seeking to receive compensation for advising, assisting, or consulting with any individual in connection with any veterans' benefits matter shall,

- before rendering any services, memorialize the specific terms under which the amount to be paid will be determined in a written agreement signed by both parties.
- Compensation must be purely contingent upon an increase in benefits awarded, and if successful, compensation shall not exceed five times the amount of the monthly increase in benefits awarded based on the claim.
- Compensation shall not exceed twelve thousand five hundred dollars or an amount established by federal law, whichever is less.
- No initial or nonrefundable fee shall be charged by a person advising, assisting, or consulting an individual on a veterans' benefits matter.
- No interest shall be charged on any payment plans agreed to by the parties.

Prohibitions:

A person seeking to receive compensation for advising, assisting, or consulting with any individual with any veterans' benefits matter shall not utilize a medical professional with whom it has an employment or business relationship for a secondary medical exam.

CLAIM PREDATOR LAW ANALYSIS

No person shall guarantee, either directly or by implication, a successful outcome or that any individual is certain to receive a specific level, percentage, or amount of veterans' benefits.

Death of a Veteran Claimant:

In the event that a veteran claimant dies prior to a claim being processed, any expected compensation shall be waived and no charge, fee, or debt shall be collected. Any payment plan for services rendered shall be terminated immediately.

Disclosure:

No person shall advise, assist, or consult for compensation with any individual concerning any veterans' benefits matter without clearly providing at the outset of the business relationship the following disclosure both orally and in writing:

"This business is not sponsored by, or affiliated with, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, or any other federally chartered veterans' service organization. Other organizations including but not limited to the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, a local veterans' service organization, and other federally chartered veterans' service organizations may be able to provide you with this service free of charge. Products or services offered by this business are not necessarily endorsed by any of these organizations. You may qualify for other veterans' benefits beyond the benefits for which you are receiving services here."

The written disclosure shall appear in at least twelve-point font and shall appear in a readily noticeable and identifiable place in the person's agreement with the individual seeking services. The disclosure shall direct the individual seeking services to the nearest Veterans Service Office, with appropriate address and contact information for that office. The individual shall verbally acknowledge understanding of the oral disclosure and sign the document in which the written disclosure appears to represent understanding of these provisions. The person offering services shall retain a copy of the written disclosure while providing veterans' benefits services for compensation to the individual and for at least one year after the date on which the service relations terminate.

Regulation of Conduct (business prohibitions):

Businesses engaging in the preparation of an initial claim or appeal of a disability rating for a fee shall not do any of the following:

- 1) Utilize international call center or data centers for processing veterans personal information.
- 2) Gain direct access to any personal medical, financial, or government benefits log-in, username, or password information.
- 3) Gain direct access to any personal medical, financial, or government benefits log-in, username, or password information.

A violation of the provisions of this Section shall constitute an unfair, false, misleading, or deceptive act or practice in the conduct of trade or commerce under Louisiana's Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Laws.

CLAIM PREDATOR LAW ANALYSIS

Regulation of Conduct (reporting requirements):

An entity assisting veterans with their initial disability claims as prescribed within this Section shall, within one hundred twenty days of the request, provide on an annualized basis of all of the following data to the Department of Veterans Affairs:

- 1) Aggregate number of serviced in the state.
- 2) Number of claims approved, denied, pending.
- 3) Average claim return time.
- 4) Number of clients who received a successful increase who have previously assigned "agent of record".
- 5) Data provided shall exclude any items of personal financial, medical, or other data deemed confidential, business privileged, or HIPAA protected information.

CLAIM PREDATOR LAW ANALYSIS

Florida SB-910, signed into law and effect on June 6, 2025

Related to veterans' benefits assistance; puts limits on compensation; terms of engagement; written disclosure; outlines prohibitions; requires a background check, documentation; complaint process.

Definition: "specified agency:" adds the state's Department of Veterans' Affairs to the list, enabling the Department to conduct "state and national criminal history background screening on persons who work with children or persons who are elderly or disabled.

Definitions for Assisting in veterans' benefits matters:

"Compensation:" payment of any money, thing of value, or economic benefit conferred on or received by a person in return for services rendered or to be rendered.

"Provider:" an entity or individual assisting veterans with veterans' benefits matters.

"Veteran:" same meaning as FL s. 1.01 (14) and includes eligible peacetime service as defined in FL s. 296.02.

"Veterans' benefits matter:" preparation, presentation, or prosecution of a veteran's claim, or a claim by the veteran's spouse, dependent child, or any other individual eligible for any benefit, program, service, commodity, function, status, or entitlement under the laws and regulations administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs or the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

Limits on Compensation; terms of engagement; written disclosure:

A person may not receive compensation for referring an individual to a provider who will advise, assist, or consult with the individual regarding any veterans' benefits matter.

A provider may receive compensation for services rendered in connection with a claim filed within the 1-year presumptive period after active-duty release as determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs only if the veteran acknowledges, by signing a waiver, that he or she is within the presumptive period and is choosing to deny the free services available to him or her.

A provider seeking compensation for advising, assisting, or consulting with an individual regarding any veterans' benefits matter must, before rendering services, enter into a written agreement, signed by both parties, which:

1. Memorializes the specific terms under which the compensation will be determined; and
2. Provides that compensation for such services is contingent upon securing an increase in benefits awarded as a direct result of such services. Any such compensation may not exceed the lesser of four times the amount of the monthly increase in benefits awarded based on the claim of \$12,500; and must be paid out according to the specific terms agreed to by both parties in accordance with subparagraph 1.

Disclosure requirements:

A provider who advises, assists, or consults on veterans' benefits matters for compensation shall provide the following disclosure, both orally and in writing, before entering into a business relationship with an individual:

This business is not sponsored by or affiliated with the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, or any other federally chartered veterans' service organization.

Other organizations, including, but not limited to, the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, a local veterans' service organization, and other federally chartered veterans' service organizations, may be able to provide you with this service free of charge. Products or services offered by this business are not necessarily endorsed by any of these organizations. You may qualify for other veterans' benefits beyond the benefits for which you are rec services here.

CLAIM PREDATOR LAW ANALYSIS

The written disclosure must appear in a clearly legible font in at least 12-point type immediately above the signature line and must be signed by the individual to signify that he or she understands the oral and written disclosures' provisions. The provider shall retain a copy of the written disclosure while providing veterans' benefits services to the individual for compensation and for at least 6 years after the date on which the services provided under the agreement terminate.

A provider who advises, assists, or consults on a veterans' benefits matter may not charge an initial or nonrefundable fee. Any charge for interest on any payment plan agreed to by the parties is prohibited.

Death of a Veteran Claimant: If a veteran claimant dies before a claim is processed:

- a) Any expected compensation must be waived and a charge, fee, or debt may not be collected;
- b) Any payment plan for services rendered must be terminated immediately.

Prohibitions:

A provider may not guarantee, either directly or by implication, a successful outcome or that an individual is certain to receive specific veterans' benefits or a specific level, percentage, or amount of veterans' benefits.

A provider who advises, assists, or consults on veterans' benefits matters for compensation:

1. May not use an international call center or data center to directly solicit a veteran to enter into a business relationship with the provider or process a veteran's personal information.
2. May not use a veteran's personal log-in, username, or password information to access the veteran's medical, financial, or government benefits information.
3. May not employ a medical provider to conduct a secondary medical examination of the veteran.

Background screening: A provider must ensure that all individuals who directly assist a veteran in a veterans' benefits matter complete a level 2 background screening that screens for any offenses identified in (FL codes) or before entering into any agreement with a veteran for veterans' benefits matters.

An individual must submit a full set of fingerprints to Florida's Department of Law Enforcement or to a vendor, entity, or agency authorized by Florida, which must forward the fingerprints to the Department for state processing.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs shall transmit the background screening results to the provider, which results must indicate whether an individual's background screening contains any of the offenses listed in this subsection.

Fees for state and federal fingerprint processing must be borne by the provider or individual. This subsection does not imply endorsement, certification, or regulation of providers by the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Documentation: Provider must provide copies of all fully executed documents required by subsection (2) to the veteran being assisted in the veterans' benefits matters and maintain a copy of all fully executed documents for 6 years.

Complaint: If a veteran who receives services from a provider under this section in return for compensation files a complaint with the Consumer Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General based on alleged absence of good faith as defined in (Florida Code), and if such veteran does not receive a monthly monetary increase as a direct result of such provider's services, the provider may not receive compensation for any services provided to such individual before the resolution of the complaint.

Penalties: A violation constitutes a violation of the Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act under part II of the (chapter of FL Code). Violators may be subject to penalties provided in that part, including (under FL Code) for violations against a military servicemember or his or her spouse or dependent child.

CLAIM PREDATOR LAW ANALYSIS

Construction: This section may not be construed as applying to, limiting, or expanding the requirements imposed on agents or employees of the Department of Veterans' Affairs or agents or attorneys accredited by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and regulated by that agency.

(No subject)

From Danielle E. Mitchell <MitchelD@charlescountymd.gov>

Date Mon 8/25/2025 8:33 PM

To Danielle E. Mitchell <MitchelD@charlescountymd.gov>

From: korderius richmond

Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2025 2:48 PM

To: Crystal Hunt <huntc@charlescountymd.gov>

Subject: Legislative Proposal Submission – Youth Safe Passage & Performance (2026 Package)

[External Content Warning] This message is from an external sender. Please exercise caution when opening attachments and hover over any links before clicking.

Legislative Proposal Submission – Youth Safe Passage & Performance (2026 Package)

Proposal Summary (1 sentence)

Establish a Youth Safe Passage & Performance Initiative that strengthens the County's existing legislative package by (1) earmarking \$250,000 within RTCC funds for an after-school intervention pilot, (2) carving \$150,000 from sidewalk funds for Safe Routes to Youth Recreation, and (3) modernizing nonprofit raffle rules with no fiscal impact.

Code References

- Maryland Criminal Law §13-1101(e)(2)(iii) – raffle prize cap.
- Subtitle 11 – Charles County gaming provisions.
- Public Safety Article – Special Police Officer scope (clarifier).
- County Budget Appropriation language – RTCC and Sidewalks lines (budget notes).

Problem

- Youth in Charles County face unsafe after-school hours (3–8pm) with rising disorder calls.
- Limited walkable access to gyms/rec hubs near Waldorf URC and similar areas.
- Community nonprofits face outdated fundraising restrictions that limit sustainability.

Solution

- RTCC Pilot: Integrate real-time alerts with trained responders and structured youth programs (\$250K + \$250K match).
- Sidewalk Carve-Out: Quick-build safety fixes near youth hubs (\$150K carve-out from \$500K request).
- Raffle Modernization: Raise prize cap from \$1,000 → \$5,000; authorize online raffle ticketing (\$0 fiscal).
- Clarifiers: Expand SPO coverage to County youth events; allow up to 5% of Affordable Housing Trust Fund for short-term family stabilization.

Organizational Support

- Charles County Sheriff's Office (RTCC partnership – pending letter).
- Department of Public Works (sidewalk feasibility – pending concurrence).
- County Attorney (raffle compliance – pending concurrence).
- Richmond Youth Impact Foundation / S&A Boxing Academy.
- Charles County School Bus Contractors Association.
- Parent & youth networks.

Proposed Draft Language

(Attached as separate files)

1. Draft Budget Note – RTCC Youth Safe Passage
2. Draft Insertion – Sidewalk Program Carve-Out
3. Draft Bill Concept – Nonprofit Raffle Modernization

Funding Amount

- \$250,000 earmarked within RTCC appropriation (State), with \$250,000 local/private match.
- \$150,000 reserved within \$500,000 sidewalk program.
- \$0 for raffle modernization.
- Clarifiers: no new funding.

Supporting Materials

- One-pager summary (attached).
- Draft budget note & bill language files (attached).
- Letters of support (to follow).

Submitted by Coach Richmond Founder of Richmond Youth Impact Foundation (operating with S&A Boxing Academy)

Legislative Proposal Submission Package

Submitted by: Coach Korderrius "Coach Richmond" Richmond
Founder – S&A Boxing Academy | Richmond Youth Impact Foundation
✉ korderriusrichmond@yahoo.com | ☎ 227-220-5242

1. Hands of the Future™ Youth Work Program

Summary

Year-round youth employment (ages 12–22) offering landscaping, cleanup, junk hauling, and snow removal jobs. Builds income, responsibility, and community service discipline.

Problem

Youth face high unemployment barriers (age, transport, background). Many idle, at-risk youth lack structured income opportunities.

Solution

- Safe, supervised jobs for youth.
- Services targeted to seniors, single parents, churches, and nonprofits.
- Transparent pay system (cash/Zelle).
- Parent/Guardian permission & liability agreement ensures safety and compliance.

Funding Request

\$15,000 startup (equipment, insurance, stipends).

Projected Impact

- \$4K–\$12K/month in earned revenue.

- 60% paid to youth, 40% reinvested into S&A Boxing Academy.
- Cleaner neighborhoods, reduced idle time, measurable workforce readiness.

2. Athlete Development & Career Blueprint (Next Play 360™)

Summary

A sports + education + career readiness program mapping athletes' full journey (youth to pro to post-career). Aligns athletic development with academics and life planning.

Problem

Parents lack roadmaps for recruiting, academic eligibility, and long-term career planning. 90% of athletes won't play professionally — most fail due to lack of direction, not talent.

Solution

- Custom athlete blueprints (physical benchmarks, academic goals, recruiting pathways).
- Multi-tier system: one-time blueprints, monthly check-ins, full athlete management.
- Covers mental resilience, leadership, brand/media training, and financial literacy.

Funding Request

\$25,000 pilot (software, staff, workshops, outreach).

Projected Impact

- 200+ athletes guided annually.
- Reduced academic failures & eligibility issues.
- Increases scholarships, college commitments, and career transitions.

3. Charles County Boxing Events & Youth Development Hub

Summary

Designate S&A Boxing Academy as a County-Approved Event Venue for 8-10 amateur boxing shows annually. Each show nets ~\$23K with fixed revenue allocations.

Problem

Rising rent threatens a vital youth hub serving 200+ kids. Without structured funding, the Academy risks closure despite proven community impact.

Solution

- 8-10 shows/year generating \$184K-\$230K.
- Revenue split:
 - \$12K rent/facility fee
 - \$2K operations
 - \$1K marketing
 - \$4K County guaranteed share
 - \$4K youth programs
 -
- County sees \$40K/year in direct returns while ensuring gym stability.

Funding Request

\$50,000 pilot support (3 months' rent + deposit).

Projected Impact

- Rent secured, gym open for 200+ kids.
- \$40K/year back to County.
- 100+ scholarships funded.
- Reduction in juvenile incidents, measurable school improvements.

4. Combined Legislative Impact

Together, these three proposals create a youth pipeline for Charles County:

- Hands of the Future™ → Immediate jobs & workforce readiness.
- Athlete Development Blueprint → Long-term sports, education, and career alignment.
- Boxing Events Hub → Financial engine sustaining the gym and providing measurable county revenue.

5. Ask to Legislators

We request \$90,000 in combined pilot support across the three initiatives, with County partnership, venue approval, and promotion to ensure success.

This will:

- Create jobs for youth (immediate & seasonal).
- Provide blueprints for athletic, academic, and career success.
- Secure a self-funding hub for 200+ kids in Charles County.
- Return \$40K+ annually to the County through events.
- Position Charles County as a state leader in youth development, public safety, and sports innovation.

About Richmond Youth Impact Foundation

Operating as S&A Boxing Academy Foundation

A registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

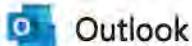
The Richmond Youth Impact Foundation, operating as S&A Boxing Academy Foundation, is a community-based nonprofit dedicated to transforming lives through discipline, mentorship, and opportunity. Established in Waldorf, Maryland, our mission is to use the art of boxing as a tool for youth development, violence prevention, and community impact.

Our foundation is a proud registered 501(c)(3) organization, which means all contributions are fully tax-deductible. By partnering with us, donors and supporters are not only investing in the growth of young athletes and community programs, but also receiving the benefit of recognized charitable giving.

Through after-school programs, mentorship initiatives, and fitness training, we aim to:

- Build confidence and discipline in youth and adults.
- Provide a safe, structured environment that keeps young people away from destructive influences.
- Offer community outreach events that unite families, schools, churches, and local organizations.
- Develop future leaders who carry the values of hard work, respect, and perseverance.

Your support of the Richmond Youth Impact Foundation helps sustain these vital programs, fuels expansion into underserved communities, and ensures that every young person has access to the tools, mentorship, and opportunities they need to succeed inside and outside the ring.



Outlook

[Draft] Fw: *NEW SUBMISSION* Legislation Proposal - County Attorney

From

Draft saved Tue 8/26/2025 7:52 PM

From: Danielle E. Mitchell <MitchelD@charlescountymd.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 26, 2025 3:53 PM
To: Danielle E. Mitchell <MitchelD@charlescountymd.gov>
Subject: Fw: *NEW SUBMISSION* Legislation Proposal - County Attorney

Contact Person Name

Joseph Mank

Proposal Summary (Describe proposal in 1 sentence)

To establish a standard of minimum attendance guidelines for Charles County Commissioners.

Code References (List any sections/chapters of the Charles County or State Code that you believe would be impacted by the proposal, if known)

N/A

Problem (Describe the problem the proposal addresses)

There is not a strict attendance legislation outlined in regards to attendance requirements for Charles County Commissioners. The lack of such legislation does not currently foster an environment where regular attendance is required and therefore the best interests of the populace is not being best served. Also there should be a requirement of in person attendance to avoid potential conflicts of interest.

Solution (Explain how the proposal addresses the problem).

There should be a legal requirement that all commissioners should attend no less than 85% of all scheduled meetings either in person or virtual. In addition to all meetings attended no more of those meetings shall be attended 15% virtually to satisfy this requirement.

Organizational Support (List any organizations that would likely be in support of the proposal, even if not confirmed).

Community at large

Proposed Draft Language (Provide draft language for the legislation if you have it).

A legal requirement that all Charles County Commissioners should be required to attend no less than 85% of all scheduled meetings either in person or virtual. In addition to all meetings attended no more than 15% of those meetings shall be attended virtually to satisfy this requirement. If a commissioner does not meet the attendance requirements they will be subject to prorated salary forfeiture based on the number of meetings not attended below the attendance requirement. In addition if a commissioner fails to attend 75% of all scheduled meetings then that particular commissioner shall have been deemed to have forfeited their office.

Other Information To Note

Attachment(s)

Thank you,
Charles County, MD

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[Draft] Fw: [External] *NEW SUBMISSION* Legislation Proposal - County Attorney**From**

Draft saved Thu 8/28/2025 4:14 PM

Legislative Proposals**Questions or More Information 301-645-0555**

This form should be used to submit legislative proposals for amendments, additions, or deletions to the Charles County Code or State of Maryland Code. Please submit the completed form online, or print and mail to: County Attorney's Office, 200 Baltimore Street, La Plata, Maryland 20646. Please attach responses to questions that require additional space to answer and indicate the question number on the attachment.

Contact Person Name

Board of Education of Charles County Superintendent Maria Navarro

Contact Person Email**Contact Person Phone****Contact Person Address**

Eric Schwartz, Staff Attorney, Charles County Public Schools
P.O. Box 2770
LaPlata, Maryland 20646

Proposal Summary (Describe proposal in 1 sentence)

The higher education scholarship provided to the Student Member of the Board of Education of Charles County would be increased from \$1,000 to \$5,000 to more accurately compensate for the time commitment for the one year of public service.

Code References (List any sections/chapters of the Charles County or State Code that you believe would be impacted by the proposal, if known)

Section 3-503 of the Education Article, Annotated Code of Maryland.

Problem (Describe the problem the proposal addresses)

The current scholarship provided to the Student Member of the Board of Education is \$1,000. This minimal compensation does not reflect proper recognition for the amount of time dedicated by the student to the role of Student Member of the Board, including the many hours spent preparing for and attending Board meetings, and countless hours of time taken up in meetings with student constituents throughout the county. The current amount of the scholarship also does not acknowledge the increases in the costs of higher education since the amount was initially established in 2014.

Solution (Explain how the proposal addresses the problem).

The increase to \$5,000 would be more in line with what various other student board members receive on other boards of education in Maryland, including those in Howard, Anne Arundel, and Montgomery counties.

Organizational Support (List any organizations that would likely be in support of the proposal, even if not confirmed).

In 2024 the Board of Education of Charles County established an independent Board Compensation Committee made up of citizens of Charles County and which included representation from the Education Association of Charles County (EACC) and the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). The Committee recommended the increase in the amount of the scholarship for the Student Member of the Board to \$5,000.

Proposed Draft Language (Provide draft language for the legislation if you have it).

Section 3-503(d)(2) of the Education Article should be amended to state: (2) A student member who completes a full term on the board shall be granted a scholarship [of \$1,000] to be applied toward the student's higher education costs IN THE AMOUNT OF: (I) \$1,000 FOR A STUDENT MEMBER SERVING IN SCHOOL YEAR 2025-2026; AND (II) \$5,000 FOR A STUDENT MEMBER SERVING IN A SCHOOL YEAR SUBSEQUENT TO JULY 1, 2026.

Other Information To Note

Attachment(s)

[Board salary bill SMOB draft June 2025.pdf](#)

Thank you,

Charles County, MD

This is an automated message generated by Granicus. Please do not reply directly to this email.

A BILL ENTITLED
AN ACT concerning

Charles County – Board of Education – Salary and Compensation

FOR the purpose of altering the salaries for members of the Charles County Board of Education and generally relating to the compensation of the members of the Charles County Board of Education.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Education

Section 3-503

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Education

§3-503.

(a) (1) The salary of the chair of the county board is:

(i) \$5000 for calendar year 2014; and

(ii) \$7,000 per year beginning January 1, 2015, and for each subsequent year.

(2) The chair is entitled to:

(i) \$1,500 each calendar year for travel and other expenses; and

(ii) After submitting expense vouchers and supporting receipts, reimbursement for a maximum of \$1,000 per year of out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with attendance at out-of-county meetings and conferences related to official duties.

(b) (1) The salary of the vice chair and each nonstudent member of the county board is:

(i) \$4,000 for calendar year 2014; and

(ii) \$6,000 per year beginning January 1, 2015, and for each subsequent year.

(2) The vice chair and each nonstudent member are entitled to:

(i) \$600 for travel and other expenses for calendar year 2014;

(ii) \$800 per year for travel and other expenses beginning January 1, 2015, and for each subsequent year; and

(iii) After submitting expense vouchers and supporting receipts, reimbursement for a maximum of \$1,000 per year of out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with attendance at out-of-county

meetings and conferences related to official duties.

- (c) Each salary provided under this section shall be paid on a quarterly basis.
- (d) (1) The student member may not receive compensation but, after submitting expense vouchers and supporting receipts, may be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with official duties approved by the board.
- (2) A student member who completes a full term on the board shall be granted a scholarship of \$1,000 to be applied toward the student's higher education costs **IN THE AMOUNT OF:**
 - (I) **\$1,000 FOR A STUDENT MEMBER SERVING IN SCHOOL YEAR 2025-2026;**
AND
 - (II) **\$5,000 FOR A STUDENT MEMBER SERVING IN A SCHOOL YEAR**
SUBSEQUENT TO JULY 1, 2026.

***NEW SUBMISSION* Legislation Proposal - County Attorney**

From DO NOT REPLY - UNMONITORED ACCOUNT <no-reply@charlescountymd.gov>

Date Mon 8/18/2025 8:12 AM

To Danielle E. Mitchell <MitchelD@charlescountymd.gov>; County Attorney <coattorney@charlescountymd.gov>

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Legislation Proposal - County Attorney

Submission #: 4266802

IP Address: 

Submission Date: 08/18/2025 8:12

Survey Time: 8 minutes, 59 seconds

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Legislative Proposals**Questions or More Information 301-645-0555**

This form should be used to submit legislative proposals for amendments, additions, or deletions to the Charles County Code or State of Maryland Code. Please submit the completed form online, or print and mail to: County Attorney's Office, 200 Baltimore Street, La Plata, Maryland 20646. Please attach responses to questions that require additional space to answer and indicate the question number on the attachment.

Contact Person Name

Misty Good

Contact Person Email



Contact Person Phone



Contact Person Address

Charles County Sheriff's Office
6915 Crain Hwy
La Plata, MD 20646

Proposal Summary (Describe proposal in 1 sentence)

Add language to MD Transp. §21-202.1 (redlight) and §21-809 (speed cameras) that "in Charles County, 'owner' includes a motor vehicle rental or leasing company, or a holder of a special registration plate issued under Title 13, Subtitle 9, Part III of this article."

Code References (List any sections/chapters of the Charles County or State Code that you believe would be impacted by the proposal, if known)

MD Transp. §21-202.1 (redlight) and §21-809 (speed cameras)

Problem (Describe the problem the proposal addresses)

Maryland law currently excludes certain vehicles from automated enforcement monitoring systems. Specifically, MD Transp. §21-202.1, traffic control signal monitoring systems (red light) and §21-809, speed monitoring system (speed cameras) exclude vehicles registered to rental companies, leasing companies, and dealers. In contrast, rental companies are not excluded from school bus violations (§21-706.1) and there are no exclusions for paying an automated toll (§24-1414).

Solution (Explain how the proposal addresses the problem).

Add language to MD Transp. §21-202.1 (redlight) and §21-809 (speed cameras) that "in Charles County, 'owner' includes a motor vehicle rental or leasing company, or a holder of a special registration plate issued under Title 13, Subtitle 9, Part III of this article."

Organizational Support (List any organizations that would likely be in support of the proposal, even if not confirmed).

Charles County Sheriff's Office

Proposed Draft Language (Provide draft language for the legislation if you have it).

see attached

Other Information To Note

Attachment(s)

[Sheriff's Proposals 2026 \(Automated Enforcement\).pdf](#)

Thank you,
Charles County, MD

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Charles County Sheriff's Office

Legislative Proposals

Legislative Session 2026

AUTOMATED ENFORCEMENT

Issue: The Maryland General Assembly authorized automated school zone speed enforcement (speed cameras) and traffic control signal monitoring (red light cameras) to promote public safety on our roadways. The automated cameras generate citations for vehicles that drive through a solid red light or exceed the speed by at least 12 miles per hour in a school zone.

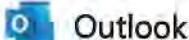
Maryland law currently excludes certain vehicles from automated enforcement monitoring systems. Specifically, MD Transp. §21-202.1, traffic control signal monitoring systems (red light) and §21-809, speed monitoring system (speed cameras) *exclude* vehicles registered to rental companies, leasing companies, and dealers. In contrast, rental companies are not excluded from school bus violations (§21-706.1) and there are no exclusions for paying an automated toll (§24-1414).

For calendar year 2024, the Sheriff's Office recorded the following violations where citations could not be issued because they were either rental vehicles, leasing company or dealer tags.

Red Light	1,246 violations
Speeding in School Zones	2,130 violations

The violations committed by rental, leased, and dealer vehicles in school zones include more than 600 vehicles that exceeded the posted speed limit by 16 plus mph and at least 4 vehicles that exceeded the posted by 40 plus mph.

Proposal: Add language to MD Transp. §21-202.1 (redlight) and §21-809 (speed cameras) that "in Charles County, 'owner' includes a motor vehicle rental or leasing company, or a holder of a special registration plate issued under Title 13, Subtitle 9, Part III of this article."



NEW SUBMISSION Legislation Proposal - County Attorney

From DO NOT REPLY - UNMONITORED ACCOUNT <no-reply@charlescountymd.gov>

Date Mon 8/18/2025 8:18 AM

To Danielle E. Mitchell <MitchelD@charlescountymd.gov>; County Attorney <coattorney@charlescountymd.gov>

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Legislation Proposal - County Attorney

Submission #: 4266806

IP Address:

Submission Date: 08/18/2025 8:18

Survey Time: 4 minutes, 16 seconds

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Legislative Proposals

Questions or More Information 301-645-0555

This form should be used to submit legislative proposals for amendments, additions, or deletions to the Charles County Code or State of Maryland Code. Please submit the completed form online, or print and mail to: County Attorney's Office, 200 Baltimore Street, La Plata, Maryland 20646. Please attach responses to questions that require additional space to answer and indicate the question number on the attachment.

Contact Person Name

Misty Good

Contact Person Email

Contact Person Phone

Contact Person Address

Charles County Sheriff's Office
6915 Crain Hwy
La Plata, MD 20646

Proposal Summary (Describe proposal in 1 sentence)

Add language to certain crimes against public health and safety that require an individual to provide identification or satisfactory proof of identification if the officer has probable cause to believe the individual has committed a civil offense in Charles County.

Code References (List any sections/chapters of the Charles County or State Code that you believe would be impacted by the proposal, if known)

multiple see attached

Problem (Describe the problem the proposal addresses)

There is no requirement to produce identification in order for an officer to issue civil citations for most public health and safety crimes. Md. Criminal Law Code Ann. § 10-120 requires a person to furnish proof of identification and age on request of the person issuing the citation for some alcohol related citations. Maryland law fails to provide similar requirements for open container of alcohol in public, consumption of alcohol in public and open container in passenger area of vehicle; or other public health and safety crimes such as those related to cannabis, tobacco or gambling.

Solution (Explain how the proposal addresses the problem).

Add language to certain crimes against public health and safety that require an individual to provide identification or satisfactory proof of identification if the officer has probable cause to believe the individual has committed a civil offense in Charles County.

Organizational Support (List any organizations that would likely be in support of the proposal, even if not confirmed).

Charles County Sheriff's Office

Proposed Draft Language (Provide draft language for the legislation if you have it).

See attached.

Other Information To Note

Attachment(s)

[Sheriff's Proposals 2026 \(Civil Offenses\).pdf](#)

Thank you,
Charles County, MD

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Charles County Sheriff's Office
Legislative Proposals
Legislative Session 2026

CIVIL OFFENSES

Issue: There is no requirement to produce identification in order for an officer to issue civil citations for most public health and safety crimes. [Md. Criminal Law Code Ann. § 10-120](#) requires a person to furnish proof of identification and age on request of the person issuing the citation for some alcohol related citations. Maryland law fails to provide similar requirements for open container of alcohol in public, consumption of alcohol in public and open container in passenger area of vehicle; or other public health and safety crimes such as those related to cannabis, tobacco or gambling.

Proposal: Add language to certain crimes against public health and safety that require an individual to provide identification or satisfactory proof of identification if the officer has probable cause to believe the individual has committed a civil offense in Charles County.

ALCOHOL

CR 10-125 Open container in passenger area of vehicle

ADD 10-126.1

Failure to provide proof of identification. This section only applies to Charles County.

(a) A person being issued a citation under §10-126 may not fail or refuse to furnish proof of identification or satisfactory proof of identification on request of the person issuing the citation.

(b) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$50.

AB 6-321- consumption of alcoholic beverages in public

ADD AB 6-321.1

Failure to provide proof of identification. This section only applies to Charles County.

(a) A person being issued a citation under §6-321 may not fail or refuse to furnish proof of identification or satisfactory proof of identification on request of the person issuing the citation.

(b) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$50.

AB 6-322- Possession of Open Container

ADD AB 6-322.1

Failure to provide proof of identification. This section only applies to Charles County.

- (a) A person being issued a citation under §6-322 may not fail or refuse to furnish proof of identification or satisfactory proof of identification on request of the person issuing the citation.
- (b) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$50.

CANNABIS

CR 5-601 (C)(4) The smoking of cannabis in a public place

ADD CR 5-601 (C) (4)

Failure to provide proof of identification. This section only applies to Charles County.

- (a) A person being issued a citation under § 5-601 (C) (4) may not fail or refuse to furnish proof of identification or satisfactory proof of identification on request of the person issuing the citation.
- (b) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$50.

CR § 5-601.1 Citation for possession of the civil use amount of cannabis

ADD CL § 5-601.1

Failure to provide proof of identification. This section only applies to Charles County.

- (a) A person being issued a citation under § 5-601.1 may not fail or refuse to furnish proof of identification or satisfactory proof of identification on request of the person issuing the citation.
- (b) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$50.

TOBACCO

HG § 24-307. Distribution of tobacco products, paraphernalia, or coupons to minors prohibited.

ADD HG § 24-307 (c) (1)

Failure to provide proof of identification. This section only applies to Charles County.

- (a) A person being issued a citation under § 24-307 (c) (1) may not fail or refuse to furnish proof of identification or satisfactory proof of identification on request of the person issuing the citation.
- (b) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$50.

GAMBLING

CR 10-136 under the age of 21 Playing a table game or video lottery terminal in a video lottery facility or entering or remaining in an area within a video lottery facility that is designated for table game or video lottery terminal activities.

ADD 10-138

Failure to provide proof of identification. This section only applies to Charles County.

- (a) A person being issued a citation under §10-136 may not fail or refuse to furnish proof of identification or satisfactory proof of identification on request of the person issuing the citation.
- (b) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$50.

CR § 12-103. Playing certain games For money or any other thing or consideration of value, a person may not: (1) bet, wager, or gamble; or (2) play any other gaming device or fraudulent trick.

ADD 12-103(g)

Failure to provide proof of identification. This section only applies to Charles County.

- (a) A person being issued a citation under §12-103 may not fail or refuse to furnish proof of identification or satisfactory proof of identification on request of the person issuing the citation.
- (b) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$50.

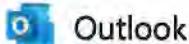
LITTER

Envi. § 9-2301 Prohibition on releasing a balloon into the atmosphere

ADD 9-2301(f)

Failure to provide proof of identification. This section only applies to Charles County.

- (a) A person being issued a citation under §9-2301 may not fail or refuse to furnish proof of identification or satisfactory proof of identification on request of the person issuing the citation.
- (b) A person who violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction is subject to a fine not exceeding \$50.



NEW SUBMISSION Legislation Proposal - County Attorney

From DO NOT REPLY - UNMONITORED ACCOUNT <no-reply@charlescountymd.gov>

Date Wed 8/6/2025 10:16 AM

To Danielle E. Mitchell <MitchelD@charlescountymd.gov>; County Attorney <coattorney@charlescountymd.gov>

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Legislation Proposal - County Attorney

Submission #: 4241225

IP Address: [REDACTED]

Submission Date: 08/06/2025 10:16

Survey Time: 8 minutes, 35 seconds

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Legislative Proposals

Questions or More Information 301-645-0555

This form should be used to submit legislative proposals for amendments, additions, or deletions to the Charles County Code or State of Maryland Code. Please submit the completed form online, or print and mail to: County Attorney's Office, 200 Baltimore Street, La Plata, Maryland 20646. Please attach responses to questions that require additional space to answer and indicate the question number on the attachment.

Contact Person Name

DERRICK TERRY

Contact Person Email

[REDACTED]

Contact Person Phone

[REDACTED]

Contact Person Address

[REDACTED]

Proposal Summary (Describe proposal in 1 sentence)

Proposal 3: Propose a 10 cent Charles County bag tax or bag fee for paper or reusable checkout bags.

Code References (List any sections/chapters of the Charles County or State Code that you believe would be impacted by the proposal, if known)

According to the Charles County ordinance: "A retail establishment may charge a fee of not less than 10 cents per bag or reusable bag." The fee is retained by the establishment

Problem (Describe the problem the proposal addresses)

The goal of proposal is to reduce and/or eliminate the stormwater remediation fee collected under Chapter 275-3, Part A of the Charles County Code <https://ecode360.com/27531845#27531827--FY Year 2025> rate is \$156 per improved property with certain

exemptions to others.

Solution (Explain how the proposal addresses the problem).

1) 50% of the funds will go to the Watershed Protection and Restoration Fund and the remaining 50% to business to offset bag cost and administrative expenses 2) Reduces litter 3) Protects the environment to include Charles County's many water conservation areas 4) Cut recycling contamination

Organizational Support (List any organizations that would likely be in support of the proposal, even if not confirmed).

None at this time.

Proposed Draft Language (Provide draft language for the legislation if you have it).

None at this time.

Other Information To Note

Counties/Municipalities that currently have bag tax 1. Prince George's 2. Anne Arundel excludes City of Annapolis 3. Baltimore County/City 4. Howard 5. Montgomery Some Charles County Chain Stores which currently charge (surcharge) customers for bags in some form or fashion if customers don't bring their own: 1. Aldi's 2. Lidl 3. Walmart 4. Target 5. MOM's Organic Market 6. Sprouts 7. Best Buy 8. Safeway 9. CVS 10. Rite Aid

Attachment(s)

Thank you,
Charles County, MD

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***NEW SUBMISSION* Legislation Proposal - County Attorney**

From DO NOT REPLY - UNMONITORED ACCOUNT <no-reply@charlescountymd.gov>

Date Fri 8/1/2025 12:55 PM

To Danielle E. Mitchell <MitchelD@charlescountymd.gov>; County Attorney <coattorney@charlescountymd.gov>

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Legislation Proposal - County Attorney

Submission #: 4231313

IP Address: [REDACTED]

Submission Date: 08/01/2025 12:55

Survey Time: 28 minutes, 11 seconds

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Legislative Proposals**Questions or More Information 301-645-0555**

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Contact Person Name

DERRICK TERRY

Contact Person Email

[REDACTED]

Contact Person Phone

[REDACTED]

Contact Person Address

[REDACTED]

Proposal Summary (Describe proposal in 1 sentence)

No Charles County elected official and/or their immediate family member are permitted to apply and/or receive a grant from the taxpayer-funded Charles County Charitable Trust and/or in other taxpayer funded charitable program.

Code References (List any sections/chapters of the Charles County or State Code that you believe would be impacted by the proposal, if known)

Charles County Code of Ethics 170-5 Prohibited conduct and interest

Problem (Describe the problem the proposal addresses)

During an April 2024 Townhall, District 3 Commissioner publicly stated she had no knowledge her spouse was a 2025 grant recipient—from what was formerly known as Christmas in April, now Rebuilding Charles County—of \$30,000 from the Charles

County Charitable Trust. Given this context, Commissioner was asked if this was a conflict of interest? Commissioner's response was she voluntarily stepped down from board in 2014 when she made the decision to run for Commissioner, specifically to avoid any conflict of interest. Since that time, the Commissioner has held she has had no role or participated in board activities for her spouse's non-profit organization. Based on the Commissioner's response, it should be determined the Commissioner did not feel it was a conflict of interest. This would suggest it is permissible for commissioners and/or their immediate spouse and/or family member to apply for and receive a grant from the Charitable Trust or any other taxpayer charitable organization.

Solution (Explain how the proposal addresses the problem).

1) The Ethics Commission or appropriate governing body should issue a written statement or policy clarification confirming whether such participation is in compliance with existing ethics guidelines. 2) All applications and awards from the Charitable Trust involving immediate family members of elected officials should be publicly disclosed, including applicant names, relationship to the commissioner, and the purpose and amount of the grant. 3) Consider initiating a review of the Charitable Trust's eligibility criteria to determine whether additional safeguards or recusal procedures are warranted when applications involve elected officials' immediate family members. 4) Proactively communicate to the public how potential conflicts are addressed to ensure continued trust in the fairness and impartiality of the grant process.

Organizational Support (List any organizations that would likely be in support of the proposal, even if not confirmed).

None at this time.

Proposed Draft Language (Provide draft language for the legislation if you have it).

PROPOSED BILL concerning Charles County Elected Officials and Publicly Funded Charitable Grants FOR the purpose of prohibiting Charles County elected officials and their Immediate family members from applying for and/or receiving grants from the Charles County Charitable Trust and other taxpayer-funded charitable programs; providing for definitions; and generally relating to the ethical conduct of Charles County elected officials. a) Definitions. For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated: Charles County Elected Official: Any individual who holds an elective office of Charles County, as defined in Chapter 170-____ Immediate Family Member: A spouse and dependent children of a Charles County Elected Official, as defined in Chapter 170-____ Charles County Charitable Trust: The Charles County Charitable Trust, established in 2016 to manage the annual Nonprofit Grant Award Program with funds approved by the County Commissioners. Taxpayer-Funded Charitable Program: Any program or entity funded in whole or in part by taxpayer funds and providing grants or other forms of charitable assistance, excluding those specifically established for purposes other than direct charitable assistance to individuals or families. (b) Prohibition. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no Charles County Elected Official and/or their Immediate Family Member are permitted to apply for and/or receive a grant from the Charles County Charitable Trust and/or any other Taxpayer-Funded Charitable Program. (d) Enforcement. The Charles County Ethics Commission shall have the authority to investigate potential violations of this section and recommend appropriate actions as outlined in Chapter 170-____.

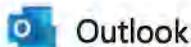
Other Information To Note

Attachment(s)

[CC CODE 170.pdf](#)

Thank you,
Charles County, MD

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NEW SUBMISSION Legislation Proposal - County Attorney

From DO NOT REPLY - UNMONITORED ACCOUNT <no-reply@charlescountymd.gov>

Date Fri 8/1/2025 2:10 PM

To Danielle E. Mitchell <MitchelD@charlescountymd.gov>; County Attorney <coattorney@charlescountymd.gov>

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Legislation Proposal - County Attorney

Submission #: 4231588

IP Address: [REDACTED]

Submission Date: 08/01/2025 2:09

Survey Time: 2 minutes, 57 seconds

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Legislative Proposals

Questions or More Information 301-645-0555

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Contact Person Name

DERRICK TERRY

Contact Person Email

[REDACTED]

Contact Person Phone

[REDACTED]

Contact Person Address

[REDACTED]

Proposal Summary (Describe proposal in 1 sentence)

Ethics Commission must provide clear rationale and/or explanation when they deem an elected official has not violated the code of ethics.

Code References (List any sections/chapters of the Charles County or State Code that you believe would be impacted by the proposal, if known)

Charles County Code of Ethics, Chapter 170-5 Prohibited conduct and interests.

Problem (Describe the problem the proposal addresses)

The Charles County Ethics Code strictly prohibits public officials and employees from using their position or influence for personal gain, stating in § 170-5(A) that "[a]n official or employee may not intentionally use the prestige of office or public

position for the private gain of that official or employee or the private gain of another". The Charles County Ethics Commission/County Attorney chose not to act on alleged violations of this code, specifically regarding the use of social media platforms for private financial benefit by commissioners. This inaction and lack of public explanation have raised concerns about a perceived precedent being set, potentially allowing commissioners to leverage their public office and social media for personal profit without facing accountability.

Solution (Explain how the proposal addresses the problem).

1) The Ethics Commission should be required to publicly clarify how they are arriving at decisions that appear to contradict their own established ethics code. 2) Make decisions and their rationale easily accessible to the public through online databases, searchable archives, or readily available reports. Consider publishing findings for each investigation, regardless of the outcome, to foster transparency. 3) Clearly define and consistently apply consequences for unethical conduct, demonstrating accountability and deterring future violations. 4) Offer clear and readily available guidance to Commissioners and County staff on ethics laws and regulations, promoting proactive compliance and understanding. 5) Provide comprehensive training for commission members on ethical decision-making frameworks, principles, and best practices in communicating rationale effectively. 6) Implement clear and consistent reporting standards for all decisions, outlining the facts, the ethical principles or regulations applied, the alternative actions considered, and the justification for the chosen course of action.

Organizational Support (List any organizations that would likely be in support of the proposal, even if not confirmed).

None at this time.

Proposed Draft Language (Provide draft language for the legislation if you have it).

Courtesy of Artificial Intelligence Software: A Bill to Amend the Charles County Code, Chapter 170, Ethics, to Enhance Transparency in Ethics Commission Findings WHEREAS, the Charles County Board of County Commissioners recognizes that public trust in government is paramount; and WHEREAS, the Charles County Ethics Commission plays a vital role in upholding ethical standards for county officials and employees; and WHEREAS, transparency in the Ethics Commission's decision-making processes fosters greater public confidence in the integrity of elected officials and the Code of Ethics; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the Laws of Charles County, Maryland read as follows: Section [Insert New Section Number]: Rationale for Findings of No Violation (A) In any instance where the Ethics Commission investigates a complaint alleging a violation of this Chapter by an elected official and determines that no violation has occurred, the Commission shall issue a written rationale and/or explanation for its finding. (B) The rationale and/or explanation shall: Clearly state the specific allegations investigated. Summarize the relevant facts gathered during the investigation. Articulate the Commission's reasoning for concluding that the actions of the elected official do not constitute a violation of the Code of Ethics. Reference the specific provisions of Chapter 170 relied upon in making the determination. (C) The rationale and/or explanation shall be a public record, subject to examination and copying by the public, in accordance with the procedures established for other public records of the Commission.

Other Information To Note

Links to social media: <https://www.facebook.com/share/18bsimPpR3/> (alleged personal page)
<https://www.facebook.com/share/1FmrQptu5p/> (alleged official campaign page)
<https://www.facebook.com/share/18QKxP6SGC/> (alleged personal page)

Attachment(s)

[CC CODE 170.pdf](#)
[ETHICS.pdf](#)

Thank you,
Charles County, MD

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***NEW SUBMISSION* Legislation Proposal - County Attorney**

From DO NOT REPLY - UNMONITORED ACCOUNT <no-reply@charlescountymd.gov>

Date Thu 8/14/2025 12:45 PM

To Danielle E. Mitchell <MitchellD@charlescountymd.gov>; County Attorney <coattorney@charlescountymd.gov>

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Legislation Proposal - County Attorney

Submission #: 4259884

IP Address: 

Submission Date: 08/14/2025 12:45

Survey Time: 3 minutes, 56 seconds

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Legislative Proposals**Questions or More Information 301-645-0555**

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Contact Person Name

Christopher Bullock

Contact Person Email**Contact Person Phone****Contact Person Address****Proposal Summary (Describe proposal in 1 sentence)**

Require all homeowner/condominium association Board of Directors (BODs) to complete "free" online or in-person board of directors training within ninety days of being elected.

Code References (List any sections/chapters of the Charles County or State Code that you believe would be impacted by the proposal, if known)

Maryland HOA Act -- 11B-106.1. Election of governing body of homeowners association

Problem (Describe the problem the proposal addresses)

Charles County is currently experiencing significant population growth and housing development. From our research, the overwhelming majority of these new communities will be managed by homeowner/condominium associations. Many new

homeowners do not understand the roles and responsibilities of homeowner/condominium associations (quote by James Madison the 4th President of the United States -- "If men were angels, no government would be necessary").

Solution (Explain how the proposal addresses the problem).

Many homeowners lack the proper skill sets to effectively manage homeowners associations. In addition, many homeowners do not understand board of directors (BODs) roles and responsibilities. Requiring BODs training within ninety-days of being elected, will train elected BODs how to manage the community's finances, enforce HOA laws, communicate with residents, and conduct board meetings. In addition, proper training will lead to improved decision-making, enhanced financial oversight, and better adherence to legal and ethical guidelines.

Organizational Support (List any organizations that would likely be in support of the proposal, even if not confirmed).

Charles County Board of Commissioners

Proposed Draft Language (Provide draft language for the legislation if you have it).

All homeowner/condominium association BODs are required to complete online or in-person board of directors training within ninety days of being elected.

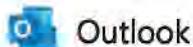
Other Information To Note:

N/A

Attachment(s)

Thank you,
Charles County, MD

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NEW SUBMISSION Legislation Proposal - County Attorney

From DO NOT REPLY - UNMONITORED ACCOUNT <no-reply@charlescountymd.gov>

Date Thu 8/14/2025 12:49 PM

To Danielle E. Mitchell <MitchelD@charlescountymd.gov>; County Attorney <coattorney@charlescountymd.gov>

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Legislation Proposal - County Attorney

Submission #: 4259901

IP Address:

Submission Date: 08/14/2025 12:49

Survey Time: 3 minutes, 32 seconds

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Legislative Proposals

Questions or More Information 301-645-0555

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Contact Person Name

Christopher Bullock

Contact Person Email

Contact Person Phone

Contact Person Address

Proposal Summary (Describe proposal in 1 sentence)

Require that all BODs certify in writing that they are current with HOA/Condo assessment fees and have no covenant/architectural violations prior to running for any elected position.

Code References (List any sections/chapters of the Charles County or State Code that you believe would be impacted by the proposal, if known)

Maryland HOA Act -- § 11B-115.1. Failure to comply with the election procedures of homeowners association

Problem (Describe the problem the proposal addresses)

Many new BODs do not understand the roles and responsibilities of homeowner/condominium associations, have numerous covenant/architectural violations, and are delinquent with their assessments (quote by James Madison the 4th President of the

United States -- "If men were angels, no government would be necessary").

Solution (Explain how the proposal addresses the problem).

Require all BODs certify in writing that they are current with HOA fees and have no covenant/architectural violations.

Organizational Support (List any organizations that would likely be in support of the proposal, even if not confirmed).

Charles County Board of Commissioners

Proposed Draft Language (Provide draft language for the legislation if you have it).

All homeowner/condominium association Board of Directors (BODs) must certify in writing that they are current with HOA fees and have no covenant/architectural violations prior to running for any BODs elected position.

Other Information To Note

N/A

Attachment(s)

Thank you,
Charles County, MD

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NEW SUBMISSION Legislation Proposal - County Attorney

From DO NOT REPLY - UNMONITORED ACCOUNT <no-reply@charlescountymd.gov>

Date Thu 8/14/2025 12:53 PM

To Danielle E. Mitchell <MitchelD@charlescountymd.gov>; County Attorney <coattorney@charlescountymd.gov>

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Legislation Proposal - County Attorney

Submission #: 4259917

IP Address: [REDACTED]

Submission Date: 08/14/2025 12:53

Survey Time: 4 minutes

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Legislative Proposals

Questions or More Information 301-645-0555

This form should be used to submit legislative proposals for amendments, additions, or deletions to the Charles County Code or State of Maryland Code. Please submit the completed form online, or print and mail to: County Attorney's Office, 200 Baltimore Street, La Plata, Maryland 20646. Please attach responses to questions that require additional space to answer and indicate the question number on the attachment.

Contact Person Name

Christopher Bullock

Contact Person Email

[REDACTED]

Contact Person Phone

[REDACTED]

Contact Person Address

[REDACTED]

Proposal Summary (Describe proposal in 1 sentence)

Create an Office of Community Relations with a minimum of three highly qualified Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff members.

Code References (List any sections/chapters of the Charles County or State Code that you believe would be impacted by the proposal, if known)

Note Sure about any County or State Codes?

Problem (Describe the problem the proposal addresses)

Currently homeowners, BODs, and property managers do not have a dedicated County Office whose mission is to monitor, assist, support homeowner/condominium association BODs and homeowners with effectively managing communities.

Solution (Explain how the proposal addresses the problem).

Establishing an Office of Community Relations is important with nurturing positive relationships between organizations and communities. Benefits include: 1) Developing and implementing strategies to engage with the local community; 2) Building trust; 3) Provide assistance through conflict prevention and reconciliation services; and 4) Enhancing property values and quality of life, thus increasing tax revenue for County services.

Organizational Support (List any organizations that would likely be in support of the proposal, even if not confirmed).

Charles County Board of Commissioners

Proposed Draft Language (Provide draft language for the legislation if you have it).

The County will create a County managed homeowner/condominium association oversight office (i.e., Office of Community Relations) whose mission is to monitor, assist, support BODs and homeowners.

Other Information To Note

N/A

Attachment(s)

Thank you,
Charles County, MD

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DRAFT LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

Policy Brief: Expanding Agritourism in Charles County to Include Breweries

Issue:

Charles County currently recognizes agritourism—as defined in local zoning—as activities conducted in conjunction with agricultural operations on the same or adjacent parcels The BayNeteCode360. Yet, breweries—especially those sourcing local ingredients—are not explicitly included, missing an opportunity for diversified economic development and promotion of local agriculture.

Local Context:

- A recent Agricultural Economic Development Assessment indicates that Charles County welcomed its first state-licensed brewery and farm winery—but lacks a clear regulatory framework for agritourism that explicitly includes such operations Meet Charles County.
- Elsewhere in Maryland, agritourism already encompasses “craft breweries” along with wineries and creameries as active agritourism centers University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

Why Include Breweries?

- **Economic diversification & tourism growth:** Breweries can drive agritourism by attracting new visitors seeking local-flavor experiences alongside more traditional farm activities like "pick-your-own" Explore Charles County.
- **Support for local agriculture:** Breweries can enhance demand for locally grown grains, hops, fruits, and adjuncts, strengthening regional farm incomes.
- **Regulatory clarity and cost savings:** Existing agritourism policy reforms in Charles County have already reduced permitting burdens (e.g., exemptions from change-of-occupancy permits for agritourism buildings) Maryland General Assembly La Gasse Report. Extending this clarity to breweries would streamline their integration.

Proposed Policy Actions:

1. Amend Agritourism Definition

Revise Charles County Zoning Ordinance to explicitly include licensed breweries that source at least a portion of ingredients locally as eligible agritourism operations.

2. Enable Agritourism Benefits for Breweries

- Make breweries eligible for agritourism-related zoning allowances, signage, marketing support, and grant or low-interest loan programs.

- Offer permitting exemptions similar to those already provided for other agritourism uses (e.g., not requiring a change-of-occupancy permit under specified conditions) Maryland General Assembly La Gasse Report.

3. Establish Local Implementation Pathways

- Require breweries to submit brief documentation showing ingredient sourcing and visitor engagement plans.
- Update agritourism maps, marketing materials (e.g., interactive county tourism maps), and zoning ordinances to show breweries alongside farms like Shlagel Farms Explore Charles CountyMeet Charles County.

4. Monitor and Promote Impacts

- Track visits, local sourcing volume, and economic contributions.
- Promote success stories through tourism channels like “Explore Charles County.”

Expected Outcomes:

- **Boost visitor numbers and spending**, attracting demographics interested in culinary and beverage tourism.
- **Strengthen agricultural supply chains** by creating new demand for locally produced ingredients.
- **Elevate Charles County’s agritourism profile**, positioning it among Maryland counties embracing innovative, value-added agriculture.

AN ACT concerning Agritourism – Inclusion of Breweries

Purpose:

To amend current agritourism regulations to include breweries as eligible operations within designated agritourism districts, thereby supporting local agriculture, diversifying rural economies, and promoting tourism.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE

This Act may be cited as the *Agritourism and Brewery Inclusion Act*.

SECTION 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE

The Legislature finds that:

1. Agritourism provides economic benefits to rural communities by encouraging visitors to experience and support agricultural operations.
2. Breweries, particularly those that source ingredients from local farms, are closely tied to agricultural production and contribute to the economic vitality of agricultural regions.
3. Inclusion of breweries in agritourism districts will:
 - a. Enhance tourism opportunities and visitor spending;
 - b. Encourage the preservation of farmland and agricultural heritage; and
 - c. Support local agricultural producers through ingredient sourcing partnerships.

The purpose of this Act is to expand the definition of “agritourism” to include breweries and to allow their participation in agritourism district programs, incentives, and protections.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Act:

1. **Agritourism** means activities conducted on a working farm, vineyard, orchard, brewery, distillery, or other agricultural facility that are offered to the public for recreational, educational, or entertainment purposes and that promote or market the agricultural output of the operation.
2. **Brewery** means a facility licensed under state alcohol regulations that produces beer, ale, or similar fermented beverages, with a portion of ingredients sourced from within the state or region.
3. **Agritourism District** means a geographic area designated under state or local law to encourage and support agritourism operations through zoning allowances, tax incentives, promotional support, or other benefits.

SECTION 4. AMENDMENT TO AGRITOURISM DISTRICT ELIGIBILITY

(a) Breweries meeting the definition in Section 3(2) shall be recognized as eligible agritourism.

operations within designated agritourism districts.

(b) Breweries may participate in all district-related programs, including:

1. Signage allowances;
2. Zoning exemptions or conditional uses related to visitor activities;
3. Promotional and marketing programs funded or administered by the district; and
4. Eligibility for agritourism-related grants or low-interest financing.

(c) Breweries shall comply with all applicable agricultural, health, and safety regulations.

SECTION 5. LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION

(a) Counties and municipalities may update their agritourism district maps, ordinances, and marketing plans to reflect the inclusion of breweries.

(b) Breweries seeking inclusion in an agritourism district shall submit an application demonstrating compliance with ingredient sourcing and visitor engagement requirements.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Act shall take effect [insert date], and applicable regulations shall be amended within 90 days of enactment to include breweries in agritourism district programs.

**Commissioner President Collins
2026 MD General Assembly Session**

1. Rent Stabilization for Senior Residents

A proposal to provide housing relief for seniors in the form of mandated rent stabilization to prevent rental costs for seniors from increasing beyond their ability to pay. Rent stabilization will limit a landlord's ability to increase rent payments for senior tenants. Under this proposal, rent increases shall not exceed the rent stabilization allowance as determined on an annual basis by the County for tenants 62 and older. The rent allowance shall consider the rent component of the Consumer Price Index for the preceding year for the Washington-Metropolitan area.

2. Waldorf Redevelopment

A proposal to use the Charles County Industrial Development Authority to pursue funding for redevelopment in the Waldorf Urban Redevelopment Corridor (WURC), to include county-owned property presently used by the Jaycees, and expanding beyond the WURC to include the area beginning at Leonardtown Road proceeding north on US Route 301 to St. Charles Town Center Mall. The intended goal is to reduce vehicle traffic, and improve walkability and interconnectivity of walkways within the County's primary commercial district. The proposal seeks funding for sidewalk upgrades in the amount of \$500,000, as well as \$100,000 to begin feasibility studies.

3. Ferry Service

A proposal to commit state resources to the development of a ferry service connecting Indian Head to National Harbor and Alexandria, VA. The ferry will provide an alternative for Charles County residents who are commuters, lessening the traffic congestion on MD Route 210. This may also spur economic development opportunities for Charles County. This proposal seeks funding of \$400,000.

4. Real-Time Crime Centers

A proposal seeking state funding to create real-time crime centers that provide law enforcement with the needed technology to centralize data, surveillance, and intelligence from multiple sources. Real-time crime centers leverage video technology, such as Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) and cameras found at local businesses and residences, to supplement law enforcement efforts in preventing and interrupting crimes as they occur.

5. Affordable Housing Trust Fund

A proposal seeking state funding to assist with the creation of a housing trust fund to promote and support equitable and affordable rental and owned housing opportunities throughout the County. The Housing Trust Fund would leverage all housing related resources, and attract additional funding from the philanthropic community. The Fund may be used to finance costs associated with various housing programs including, but not limited to, those administered by the Housing Authority, to encourage revitalization efforts and improve the quality of housing in the County. Uses of the fund may include, but not be limited to, grants and loans to private or public entities for acquisition financing or new construction costs; matching funds for State or Federal programs; down payment assistance for homebuyers; closing cost assistance for homebuyers; property acquisition; construction financing; interest rate buy down; relocation for households; demolition costs; comprehensive homeownership

training; interim acquisition financing and assistance to nonprofit housing development corporations. The funding request is \$1 million.

6. Blue Zones Assessment Implementation

A proposal to invest in partnership with Blue Zones to bring comprehensive planning, policy and programming support to improve walkability, bikeability, healthy food access, and skills across Charles County. Funding request for \$250,000. More information at <https://www.bluezones.com/ignite-charles-county/>

2026 Legislative Proposal

Submitted by Deborah Hall, Acting County Administrator

A proposal for enabling legislation to permit the Charles County Board of Commissioners to pass local legislation to implement a recreation amenity fee. The fee will be assessed against each real property tax bill in the County, with all revenues funding a special revenue or enterprise fund, and used for recreation capital improvement projects or recreation general fund expenditures.

Charles County State Legislative Proposals Public Hearing

September 9, 2025

Speaker: Angelica Jackson, CEO

Organization: Phoenix International Incorporated (85-2466834 - Maryland registered charitable organization and 501(c)(3)) and operator of Phoenix International School of the Arts (PISOTA)

Duration: 5 minutes

Purpose

Address critical educational infrastructure needs in Charles County that directly align with Maryland's Blueprint for Education (Kirwan Commission) and our county's economic development priorities.

THE NEED

Charles County faces a documented crisis in educational equity and arts access. According to Maryland State Department of Education data, our county ranks in the bottom quartile for arts program availability, with only 2 full-time arts teachers (per art department) per 1,000 students compared to the state average of 4.8. This disparity directly impacts:

- Student achievement gaps identified in Blueprint legislation
- College and career readiness metrics
- Economic development through creative industry workforce preparation
- Tourism potential through cultural programming

PISOTA addresses these gaps by providing comprehensive arts-integrated education to underserved youth, with 78% of our students qualifying for free or reduced lunch and 65% identifying as students of color.

OUR PROVEN IMPACT

Since establishing operations in Charles County, PISOTA has demonstrated measurable outcomes that advance state and county priorities:

Educational Excellence (Blueprint Alignment):

- 92% daily attendance rate, exceeding county average by 11 percentage points
- 50% of students show grade-level improvement in reading and math through arts integration

Economic Development Impact:

- Created 45 new jobs in Charles County

- Generated \$2.3 million in annual economic activity
- Attracted families and businesses to the region
- Partnership with 12+ local businesses for volunteer opportunities

Tourism and Cultural Development:

- Annual performances attract 1,000+ visitors to Charles County
- Partnered with Grammy and Billboard award winning artists with direct service to Charles County youth
- Development of Charles County's first arts school
- Creation of public art installations enhancing community spaces

ALIGNMENT WITH STATE AND COUNTY PRIORITIES

Our request directly supports multiple legislative and policy priorities:

Blueprint for Maryland's Future (Kirwan Commission):

- Addresses concentrated poverty through Community School model
- Provides Career and Technical Education pathways in creative industries
- Implements culturally responsive curriculum
- Ensures college and career readiness

Charles County Comprehensive Plan:

- Supports Goal 3: "Enhance quality of life through education and cultural opportunities"
- Advances economic diversification through creative economy development
- Promotes equity in underserved communities
- Strengthens workforce development pipeline

State Economic Development Priorities:

- Creative economy jobs projected to grow 15% by 2030
- Arts and culture contribute \$1.4 billion annually to Maryland's economy
- Cultural tourism identified as growth sector in Maryland Tourism Strategic Plan

THE CRISIS WE FACE

Phoenix International stands at a critical crossroads. After five years of serving Charles County's most vulnerable youth, we face an existential threat:

Our Reality Today:

- Facility Crisis: Our building cannot safely accommodate our students and our growth. We lack basic performance and gymnasium space.
- Teacher Exodus: We will lose certificated educators to surrounding Counties next year—they want to stay, but we cannot match salaries

- Federal Funding at Risk: A \$1.2 million Arts in Education grants require state matching funds
- Turning Away Hope: over 200 students (many new to public schools) on our waitlist due to limited facilities and staffing —families who drove from across the county, some waiting since last year, children who see PISOTA as their only chance

SPECIFIC REQUEST AND URGENCY

We respectfully request the Charles County delegation champion the following legislative proposals:

1. Urgency - Risk Without Action:

- 200+ waitlisted students cannot be served
- \$1.2 million federal Arts in Education grant at risk (requires state match by June 2026)
- Projected loss of certificated educators to neighboring counties
- Facility constraints forcing 30% enrollment reduction by Fall 2026

2. Operational Support:

- \$500,000 by June 1, 2025 to meet the high costs of our facility and utilities rent

3. Advocacy and endorsement of increased public education and arts (Dept. of Commerce) funding

CLOSING

PISOTA represents more than an educational institution—we are an investment in Charles County's future. Every dollar invested returns \$4.50 in economic activity, reduced social service costs, and increased property values.

Our students—your constituents—deserve access to the transformative power of arts education. With your support, we can ensure Charles County leads Maryland in educational innovation, cultural development, and economic growth through the creative economy.

Contact Information:

Angelica Jackson, CEO

Phoenix International School of the Arts

Ajackson@pisota.org // 301.535.4824

About Phoenix International Incorporated:

Phoenix International Incorporated is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Our charge is to develop and implement an ecosystem where rural youth, who have historically, and currently, been marginalized due to location, race, or socio-economic standing, gain access to critically needed educational experiences that challenge and prepare them to

take stake in the global economy. Our impact model is three-pronged: no-to-low-cost, innovative educational models, including free public charter schools; out-of-school youth and community programming; and sector development through professional development collaboratives and resource-sharing.

Phoenix International provides out-of-school, direct-service leadership development programming grounded within a critical arts lens for youth in elementary to high school. Since 2020, these programs have reached over 750 youth in the southern Maryland region. Our signature programs are:

- **Phoenix Arts Creative Camp After School Arts Program (PACC:ASAP)** - An entertainment industry arts intensive after school program designed to bridge the gap between legends (experienced experts in the field of music, acting, and fashion) and legacies (budding artists and aspiring entertainment professionals) by reaffirming the need for community, cultural connectivity, and unity in the arts.
- **DREAM Academy** - geared toward upper elementary students, participants in this program explore and create local approaches to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, using the creative process and building visual arts pieces to bring awareness to key social issues.
- **Beats, Bars, and Social Justice** - developed in partnership with Grammy-nominated singer/songwriter, Mumu Fresh, this music education program serves middle-and-high school-aged youth and teaches participants the skills of songwriting, the influence of music and sound, and the impact of music on society. The program culminates in the participants' fully produced songs about social topics of interest and shared through a listening party for participants and their invited guests.
- **Southern Maryland Youth Poet Laureate** - the National Youth Poet Laureate program celebrates our nation's top youth poets who are committed to artistic excellence, civic engagement, and social impact. The Southern Maryland Youth Poet Laureate is a local level poetry competition that qualifies local youth to compete and be recognized at the regional and national level. The 2021 presidential inaugural poet hailed from this program as the first-ever National Youth Poet Laureate.

We also operate the first-ever approved public charter school in Charles County, the Phoenix International School of the Arts (PISOTA). PISOTA serves middle school students and specializes in rigorous academics combined with arts education everyday. In deep partnership with the Charles County Public Schools district, PISOTA opened its doors to students beginning school year 2023 - 2024, with an initial enrollment of 175 across grades 6 – 8 and now serves over 225 families.

Additional:

Media Coverage:

- [Educator's View: Many Rural Communities of Color Have No Arts Education. That's Why We're Opening Our Maryland Middle School | The 74Million](#)
- [Arts Students Get A Behind-the-Scenes Look at WUSA9 | Charles County Journal](#)
- [Phoenix International School of the Arts \(PISOTA\) Ribbon Cutting](#)
- [Camelback Ventures Fellow | Angelica Jackson | PISOTA | Press Play 2022](#)
- [The Next Migration: A News4 Special Report | NBC4 Washington](#)

For more information, please contact, Angelica Jackson, CEO, ajackson@pisota.org or 301.535.4824.

Phoenix International School of the Arts (PISOTA)

Community Needs Assessment CSP Template

Introduction

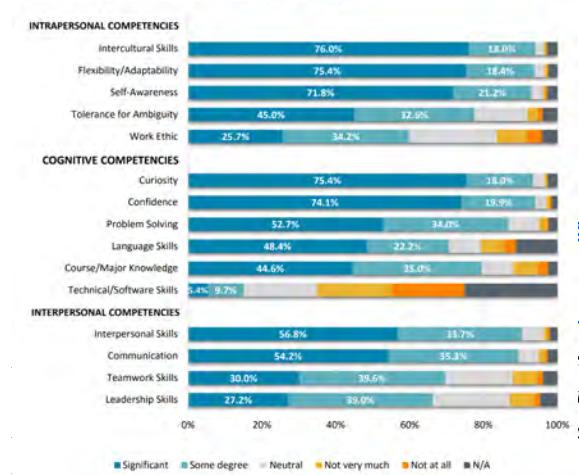
Phoenix International School of the Arts (PISOTA) is a value-add to the educational landscape in Charles County, MD as its first fine and performing arts public secondary school intentionally designed for utilizing an internationally-renowned curriculum for global and local impact. PISOTA offers exploratory and high-quality instruction in dance, instrumental music, vocal music, theatre, visual and digital arts, art history and museum curation, and the business of the creative workforce. Our foundation is grounded in cultivating well-rounded, globally competent scholars, artists, leaders, innovators, and changemakers who use their talents and gifts to make the world better. The school opened for the 2023-2024 school year and serves grades 6 and 8.

The Benefits of Arts Education and Global Exposure not Leveraged to Improve Students' Long-term Achievement

In 2018, one student from St. Charles High School shared her life-altering experience of traveling to Eastern Europe during the summer break. This was an opportunity that she had independently applied to due to her family's knowledge of study abroad opportunities for secondary students through the United States' Department of State. The student's mother reports that, "traveling broadens your view of the world and ironically, it shrinks your world..." the student adds, "If you don't know about the world, you don't know anything."¹ What if *all* of Charles County's students embodied this mindset? What if *all* students had access to the opportunities and information that could lead them to broaden their view of the world and the confidence to persevere through to their greatest potential? What if communities like Indian Head and Bryan's Road, where the schools are primarily Title 1 schools and where over 50% of the families are considered impoverished, gained access and the tools to be globally competent leaders for themselves, their families, and their local and global communities? We believe and know that all Charles County students are deserving and ready for similar experiences and PISOTA is poised to provide this access and exposure to them.

International Education

Figure 5: Reported skill development or improvement through study abroad



At PISOTA, we have designed a curricular program that centers the development of global competence. We identify global competency by the **skills, values, and behaviors students display that convey their initiative to investigate the world beyond their immediate environment, recognize perspectives other than their own, communicate ideas effectively with diverse audiences, and take action to improve their local and global communities.**² International education opens doors for students to access a world of knowledge, expertise, culture, and skills that they can use today and for years to come. The Institute of International Education

["Love of History, Languages, Leads St. Charles Senior to Study Abroad"](#)

Elimination Statement

The school system does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender or employment practices. For inquiries, please contact Dr. Mike Blanchard, Title IX/ADA/Section 504 Coordinator (students) or Dr. Karen Starkey (employees/adults), at Charles County Public Schools, Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building, P.O. Box 2770, La Plata, MD 20646. For special accommodations call 301-753-2098 or 301-934-7230 or TDD 1-800-735-2258 two weeks prior to any event.

conducted research on undergraduate students who had studied abroad examining the skills they had gained from their experience. See Figure 5.

Phoenix International School of the Arts opens a world of opportunity within and beyond the classroom for the same students reported to not show growth and the same schools that are not showing improvement, or without a Tier 1 Blue Ribbon recognition, to develop the intrapersonal, cognitive, and interpersonal competencies needed to be high-achieving in academia and in life. At our core, we are a school for promising artists, creators, and innovators. We are designing a place where young people grow their spirit of innovation. We believe creativity is a core part of a young person's learning. Fueled by creativity, students have the capacity to address large-scale problems and create solutions that have an impact in the world.

Arts Education

Research aggregated by the Ed Advocate reports that, "more of the brain is at work when the arts are part of the learning process, strengthening attentiveness, reaction time and comprehension. There is also plenty of research to suggest that arts education methods improve long-term retention."³ Additionally, the Turnaround Arts Initiative facilitated by the Education Department of the Kennedy Center found improvement in math and reading scores in schools where teachers intentionally used arts integrated teaching practices in the classroom. There are scores of reports, several of which are qualitative and from students, expressing an increase in confidence and self-esteem due to engaging in the arts as curriculum and as an instructional method.⁴

The arts build well-rounded humans, it opens their minds to design creative solutions that propel the world forward. Through arts education, students' confidence and self-esteem improves in the classroom and beyond. We have studied the top arts school curriculum across the world to arrive at the scope and sequencing of arts classes per grade-level for students attending PISOTA. Our intentionally designed curriculum along with the facilities and access to working-artists as experts in the classroom will challenge Charles County youth to reach beyond what they know and to where they always dreamed they could be.

Benefits of Critical Arts Study within A Global Lens

Through the combination of arts integration (an instructional method), arts as curriculum (professional fine and performing arts training), and international education, we are contributing a differentiated course of study that leads to greater opportunities and outcomes for all of our students, particularly for historically underrepresented student populations such as black and brown youth, and young people with varying and exceptional cognitive and physical abilities. Essentially, we believe, you cannot be an artist without the desire to be a global citizen first. We seek to teach the knowledge, skills, and mindsets needed to succeed in the global creative workforce. Through arts study and global competence, PISOTA graduates think, speak, write, and create about political, economic, environmental, social and cultural developments in the world with confidence; they value democratic rights and responsibilities, freedoms and obligations. The arts become a natural mode of communication and expression through dance, drama, music, voice, writing, and art curation. Together, the two provide well-rounded character

³ ["Happier Students, Higher Scores: The Role of Arts Integration in the Classroom"](#)

⁴ [Kennedy Center Turnaround Arts Initiative Key Findings](#)

Phoenix International School of the Arts Nondiscrimination Statement

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and academic development that complement a rigorous inquiry-based curriculum. Despite these benefits, no school in Charles County leverages these curricular features to launch students successfully into the 21st and 22nd centuries of work and innovation. Families are unaware of the resources and programs available to their children in neighboring communities, or families leave Charles County to engage in high-quality programming outside of the county; there is a desire, and yet their needs continue not to be met.

According to the federal definition of rural and urban school districts, Charles County is a Distant Town⁵ due to the population of Charles County and its proximity to an urbanized area, Washington, DC. Charles County consists of a student demographic serving over 70% students of color. Access to alternative educational options and resources are often left to geographic zoning, further emphasizing the inequity and inaccessibility to resources felt by youth and families in more rural and isolated communities within Charles County. Generally, differentiated educational opportunities tend to bypass Southern Maryland and go directly to Prince George's, Howard, and Montgomery Counties, Washington, DC or Northern, VA, leaving the region to be a rural pocket of Maryland with no school choice, no differentiated public schooling options, and a graduating student population fleeing the region for work. At the time of the school's application submission none of the schools in Charles County specialize in the fine and performing arts or leverage a global curriculum or network - a detriment to preparing youth for long-term success in college and high-growth careers in an increasingly globalized and innovative workforce.⁶

Alternative to Large School Model

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is one of the fastest growing school districts in Maryland. Most recently, in just one year, the district enrollment grew by over 400 students.⁷ Though CCPS boasts 22 elementary schools, the district has only 8 middle schools and 7 high schools. There are limited alternative schooling options - private, parochial schools - which tend to be unavailable to the 10.7 thousand families living in poverty in Charles County.⁸ As such, students, that live in hard-to-reach communities within Charles County, such as, Bryans Road, Indian Head, Cobb Island, and Nanjemoy Creek, have disproportionate access to the same quality learning experiences gained by students zoned to attend schools in Charles County's central communities; those same students lack the access to growth opportunities that students have in neighboring school systems, such as, in Montgomery, Prince George's, and Fairfax Counties.

The addition of Phoenix International School of the Arts (PISOTA) to Charles County's educational landscape means there are more high-quality seats to match the rapid growth of the district. It means that teachers, school building leaders, and all staff engaging with students will have relief in being responsible for less students at a given time. PISOTA offers a vibrant learning community to Charles County families seeking a smaller school model. At full capacity, grades 6 - 8 we will have less than 500 students. While many of CCPS' schools leverage a large school model, PISOTA will add a free, alternative option for families. Considering education post-COVID-19, we anticipate that families will prefer to send their students to schools with smaller enrollment sizes with the added flexibility to

⁵ National Center for Education Statistics. "School Locale Definitions". 2006. Retrieved at <https://nces.ed.gov/surveys/ruraled/definitions.asp>.

⁶ Lumina Foundation. "In Rural America, too few Roads Lead to College Success". Fall 2019. Retrieved at <https://focus.luminafoundation.org/in-rural-america-too-few-roads-lead-to-college-success/>

⁷ Charles County Public Schools Official Enrollment

⁸ [DataUSA.io](https://www.datausa.io)

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engage in a school's culture and its curriculum through robust remote learning. We believe that a smaller school model will have a positive impact on employee wellbeing, student's learning outcomes and student behavior.

Alternative Behavior Management Practices

Through empathy interviews and observation, the founding team for PISOTA learned that Charles County families are experiencing friction with the current district behavior management practices; including the increasing number of suspensions. African-American students are disproportionately reported for *attacks/threats/fighting* and *disrespect/disruption* which result in the highest out-of-school suspension and expulsion reports than any other racial group or student population (see [Appendix A](#)).⁹ This statistic remains true in Charles County. The Maryland State Department of Education reports that Black students in Charles County are suspended or expelled at a rate that is over 7 times more than white students. We believe that engaging students in authentic relationships, compassionate peer-to-peer and adult-to-peer accountability, and within structures that promote apologies, affirmations, stands, and commitments, will create space for students to express their differences and adapt to change in ways that are productive, healing, and solution-oriented. At Phoenix International School of the Arts, we are intentionally integrating social and emotional learning (SEL) and restorative practices throughout our curriculum, in the way our teachers and students interact with one another, and through our daily advisory, intervention, and SEL program called, "Crew".

Differentiated Math Instruction

The impact of non-differentiated math instruction and its impact on students' retention of essential math skills and student achievement also surfaced as a point for growth by Charles County families as gleaned from parent focus groups and Board of Education Public Meetings. As we seek to elevate, explore, inspire, and assess the use of various math skills through arts integrated teaching practice, PISOTA taps into evidence-based instruction proven to amplify the parallels between mathematical concepts and movement, dance, and visual arts. Leveraging the arts to teach math yields results - increased retention of math concepts, increased scores on standardized testing, increased confidence with solving for mathematical equations, and generally makes learning math more enjoyable for students; furthermore, increasing their engagement in the classroom.¹⁰

Closing Remarks on Community Need

It is not that families living in Charles County do not value their children learning and benefiting from being globally competent and building their character, or producing high quality work and mastering academic and creative knowledge, application, and skills. In fact, after placing a family inquiry survey on our social channels, 100% of respondents shared they are not satisfied with the middle school options in Charles County. As such, our assumption is that a public charter school will add value to the school district's portfolio; further, increasing the family satisfaction rate of the school district on the whole. Charles County families

⁹ Maryland State Department of Education. "Maryland Public School Suspensions by School and Major Offense Category In-School and Out-of-School Suspensions and Expulsions 2018-2019". Retrieved at

<http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/about/Documents/DCAA/SSP/20182019Student/2019SuspensionsbySchoolOUT.pdf>.

¹⁰ Kennedy Center Turnaround Arts Initiative. Summary of Key Findings. 2014. Retrieved at

<http://turnaroundarts.kennedy-center.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/BAH-Summary-Evaluation-Report.pdf>.

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lack access to information, experience systemic oppression, and a lack of resources allocated to connecting students to experts. Further, the, previously, subdued family and community engagement, and the denial of equitable access to exceptional programming have adversely impacted the world of opportunities that could be available to our children and youth.

Charles County families not only want access to opportunities for their children and in their community, but they also want schools that celebrate their cultures and nurture the genius and wellness of their youth. As we engage the Science of Adolescent Learning to fully understand the character of our students, PISOTA will meet these demands. Our founding team has designed a program and created a vision for the facilities, community, finance, and staffing strategies that operationalize our mission for academic, college, career, and world readiness - one that we believe is worthy for all Charles County youth.

Local Community Support

Descriptions of the local community support, including information that demonstrates interest in, and need for, the charter school; benefits to the community; and other evidence of demand for the charter school that demonstrates a strong likelihood the charter school will achieve and maintain its enrollment projections. Such information may include information on waiting lists for the proposed charter school or existing charter schools or traditional public schools; data on access to seats in high-quality public schools in the districts from which the charter school expects to draw students; and family interest in specialized instructional approaches proposed to be implemented at the charter school.

About links:

- <https://www.the74million.org/article/educators-view-many-rural-communities-of-color-have-no-arts-education-thats-why-were-opening-our-maryland-middle-school/>
- https://www.somdnews.com/independent/news/local/first-public-charter-school-approved-in-charles-county/article_3aede25e-e5a9-5c1b-a3e3-5facfd70778a.html
- <https://youtu.be/qiQBTtMugM>
- Parent Testimonials: <https://youtu.be/7k8lsllr5YE?si=joRe7bYekMyGCJb5>

PISOTA's Founding team of multigenerational experts have a combined 50+ years of professional and volunteer experience in the K-12 space that spans across 7 U.S. cities and communities. The diverse professional backgrounds of each member include, but are not limited to, expertise in curriculum design, school governance, nonprofit management, fundraising, and finance. Each founding member has worked closely with rural and urban youth in various capacities and has developed a unique association with improving the lives of young people through education, policy and research, the arts, and public health. Co-Founders, Angelica Jackson and Rickkay King, are also nonprofit business owners who single handedly

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created, implemented, and launched organizations to increase awareness of travel and exploration in black and brown communities. This shared passion, to expose disadvantaged communities to life outside of their own neighborhoods, brought the pair together and speaks to their capacity to educate, influence, and expand educational opportunities to those who often miss out. As business owners, each has experience in fundraising and reporting, management of millions of dollars in contracts, nonprofit operations, teambuilding, and utilizing community resources to best serve targeted communities

Enrollment Demand

- For school year SY 2023 - 2024 - received 800+ applications to fill 175 seats.
 - Recruitment efforts included in-person panels, information nights, enrollment fairs, school tours, direct mailings to hard-to-reach zip codes, paid social media ads, and virtual information open houses.
- For SY 2024 - 2025 received 600+ applications for 250 seats.
 - Recruitment efforts included one virtual information open house, school tours, and one social media post.

Story of PISOTA

MISSION

Phoenix International School of the Arts (PISOTA) inspires and prepares the next generation of global artists, innovators, leaders, and scholars to use their intrinsic gifts to make the world a better place. PISOTA provides a supportive learning community that promotes creative exploration, global competence and bilingualism, holistic wellness, learning enriched by real-world experiences, and access to experts - all combined with arts-integrated teaching practices, inquiry-based international curriculum, and the latest in technology and innovation.

TESTIMONIALS AND SUPPORT

Stephanie Simms, Director of Operations, Maryland Alliance of Public Charter Schools

Our organization is confident that the team at PISOTA has the expertise, momentum, commitment, and community support to provide an exemplary academic program for middle and high school students in Charles County.

Brittany Roring, Former Educator and Current Homeschool Parent

When I was introduced to PISOTA, I felt like they had taken the perfect school that I built in my head and put it on paper... this school gives me hope that my children can attend public school and still harbor a love of learning. I can't wait to enroll my children!

Grant Langford, Active Duty Airman, Saxophonist, and Charles County Parent

I believe there are many children who think that there isn't a path to success for them because they're routinely told that they're not measuring up to current academic standards. PISOTA meets students where they are and looks to find that spark, using the child's creativity and imagination to make dreams a reality.

Community & Family Meetings

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FACEBOOK CONVERSATIONS

LET'S TALK PUBLIC CHARTERS

Join the conversation to learn more about how charter schools operate and hear from our very first charter in Charles County, Phoenix International School of the Arts.

DATE: February 9, 2023 | TIME: 6:00 PM | LIVE: [CHARLESCOUNTYRISE](#) | TUNE IN

MIKE CHALUPA
Executive Director,
City Neighbors Foundation

ANGELICA JACKSON, M.S.ED.
Co-Founder and CEO,
PISOTA

PASCAL SMALL
Parent Leader,
Charles County Rise

PHOENIX INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL of the ARTS presents

Wellness in the Park

AUGUST 14 | 11:30 AM - 1 PM

Free Yoga Class for Charles County Families:
Soul Flow - Hatha Yoga
(All levels welcomed!)

PISOTA Pillar Focus:
Mental Health and Holistic Wellness
With discovering a greater sense of purpose, comes a greater need for self-care and wellness.

Moved by:
Royce Sospy is a certified yoga teacher, children's advocate, and doctoral student at George Washington University. He began his journey as a yogi at the age of 10 after his grandmother introduced him to yoga to help him find calm within himself. Since he has practiced many styles of yoga as a yogi, Royce has found that Royce and his students have pushed his journey of holistic wellness to a level of spiritual growth that has helped him process the transition of his mother and find balance in his ventures. Royce believes that yoga is about self-discovery and education of the mind, body, and soul, physical, and spiritual bodies. He hopes his practice can bring peace and enlightenment.

Sign Up for Your Spot Today!
<https://tinyurl.com/PISOTA-Yoga>

CREATIVE CAREERS SUMMER SPEAKER SYMPOSIUM

A virtual speaker series highlighting the many ways that arts and innovation impact the career choices of today and tomorrow. The Creative Careers Symposium seeks to expose youth to the career choices they may not usually have knowledge of or access to. Speakers will include actors, musicians, producers, dancers, writers, and other professionals who have achieved many accomplishments in their careers.

Connect with PISOTA at the

ENROLLMENT FAIR

SATURDAY, NOV. 12, 1-4 PM

3000 FESTIVAL WAY, WALDORF, MD (OLD HHRGREG)

ALL ARE INVITED - CURRENT APPLICANTS, INTERESTED FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS - TO JOIN THE PISOTA CREW IN CELEBRATION OF OUR ENROLLMENT SEASON!

ENJOY ACTIVITIES THAT ALIGN TO PISOTA'S 5 KEY PILLARS:

- YOUTH DJ RIPP
- FREE PASSPORT PHOTOS
- ARTS ACTIVITIES (MURAL + DANCE)
- COMMUNITY SERVICE SIGN-UP
- FREE SMOOTHIES FOR FIRST 25 PEOPLE
- ON-SITE ENROLLMENT APPLICATION SUPPORT & MORE!

PHOENIX INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL of the ARTS

Phoenix International School of the Arts (PISOTA)

Join a virtual information session to learn about the first public charter school in Charles County Public Schools scheduled to open August 2023.

Monday, Nov. 21, 6 p.m. **Applications are open now to Dec. 17.**

Tuesday, Nov. 29, 6 p.m.

To learn more, scan the QR code or click the link in the caption.

Connect with PISOTA at the

INFORMATIONAL PANEL

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 16, 6 PM

WALDORF WEST LIBRARY MEETING ROOMS A-B

LOCAL EDUCATORS, PARENTS/GUARDIANS, SCHOLARS, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

JOIN THE PISOTA CREW FOR A PANEL-STYLE INFORMATION SESSION ABOUT PHOENIX INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF THE ARTS IN CHARLES COUNTY

PARTYERS INCLUDE:

- PISOTA FOUNDER, MIKE CHALUPA
- CHARLES COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT
- PISOTA BOARD MEMBERS
- CHARLES COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
- CHARLES COUNTY PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL DISTRICT

OPEN TO ALL PISOTA INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS AND LEADS BASED ON PISOTA'S MISSION, VISION, MISSION, AND CORE PRINCIPLES WHICH ALLETS FOR THE OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL CHILDREN FROM ALL FAMILIES TO HAVE THE SAME OPPORTUNITY AND ACCESS WITHIN THE COUNTY, AND PREDOMINANTLY THE CHILDREN FOR THE FIRST PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL IN THE COUNTY.

WALDORF WEST LIBRARY, 3000 FESTIVAL WAY, WALDORF, MD 20646

PHOENIX INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL of the ARTS

Interest Petitions

Phoenix International School of the Arts Nondiscrimination Statement

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In 2020, we launched a [Change.org](#) petition to document interest in establishing a public charter school in Charles County. With minimal advertisement of the petition, we garnered over 200 signatures in 2 weeks. Within the first 3 days, the petition surpassed our goal of 100 signatures with supporters locally and nationally who believe in our mission and vision for students in Charles County.



Letters of Support

Our local and state representatives support Phoenix International School of the Arts (PISOTA) because of the increased quality of life for Charles County residents. They recognize PISOTA as a driving force for increased population and satisfaction with the local school system. We are currently in the process of establishing a partnership with the Charles County government to establish a community arts and culture center.

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March 7, 2023

US Senator Ben Cardin
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-4654
Fax: (202) 228-0629

Baltimore Regional Office
1900 N. Howard Street
Suite 100
Baltimore, MD 21218
Phone: (667) 212-4610

Dear Senator Cardin:

I wholeheartedly support the work and impact made by Phoenix International Incorporated in the Charles County community.

Most recently, their work with Phoenix International School of the Arts (PISOTA) was highlighted on NBC4 Washington news as a key driver for the increase in population and quality of life in Charles County. With the addition of PISOTA in our community, we are increasing the enrollment size of our school system, ultimately benefiting all students in the Charles County Public Schools system. When speaking to their constituents, we have learned that families have relocated to Charles County from New York, Arizona, Texas, Virginia, and other parts of our country so that they can engage with Phoenix International Inc and their programming - which have been successfully ongoing since they formed as a nonprofit in 2020. The need for the work they are doing in Charles County is further evidenced by the number of applications they have received for PISOTA's inaugural year of operations. For 150 spots in the school, they have received close to 700 applications.

Fortunately, they offer programs outside of PISOTA in order to capture those families who want to engage with Phoenix International but are not able to attend the school. Through their arts- and innovation- out-of-school educational and leadership programming, they create inspiring, relevant, and

effective spaces for teaching and learning. I've seen the reactions from their program participants who repeat their participation in their programs.

This is an exciting venture for Charles County's residents, and families specifically. With their vision to increase access to cultural experiences and innovation as a form to accelerate learning, Phoenix International stands to be a strong pillar of community, collaborating closely with the Charles County government and Public School System to ensure our youth are getting all the necessary experiences they need to learn and thrive.

I would be happy to discuss more about Phoenix International Incorporated and their candidacy for support by your office to fund the improvement of education in southern Maryland. I can be reached at (301) 645-0550 or by email at collinsr@charlescountymd.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RBC".

Reuben B. Collins II, Esq.
President, Board of County Commissioners, Charles County

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Letter of Support, Maryland Alliance of Public Charter Schools

1500 Linton Avn, Suite 1330
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
PHONE 410.915.9676
EMAIL info@marylandcharterschools.org

June 29, 2020

Chairwoman Virginia McGraw
Chairwoman, Charles County Board of Education
5980 Radio Station Road
La Plata, MD 20646

Dear Chairwoman McGraw,

Please accept this letter in enthusiastic support for Phoenix International School of the Arts (PISOTA) in its public charter school in Charles County.

The Maryland Alliance of Public Charter Schools (MAPCS) is a state-wide nonprofit organization that promotes efforts to maintain and expand high-quality charter school options for students and families. We are committed to supporting our state's charter schools and collaborating with district authorizers to assist them in meeting their obligations under the charter school law.

We are excited about the MSDE Charter School Program (CSP) Grant. This \$17-million, five-year award provides start-up charter schools with funding for program design, planning, and implementation activities. The Maryland CSP grants enable a prospective school, uniquely, to focus on its curriculum and specialization without the effort of raising start-up funds. This free school founders to solicit expert advice on site selection, build out programming, train faculty and purchase technology. The grant brings up to \$900,000 of positive impact funds to Charles County students and families. PISOTA will be applying for these funds during MSDE's third round of grants in August 2020.

PISOTA was selected to be part of the Charter School Alliance's Mentorship Cohort. As such, they've benefited from MAPCS resources, technical assistance, and support for the last 5 months. Our organization is confident that Angelica Jackson and the team at PISOTA has the expertise, momentum, commitment, and community support to provide an exemplary academic program for middle and high school students in Charles County.

In conclusion, the MAPCS respectfully requests your support of Phoenix International School of the Arts in its charter school application. Please call or write if I can help you further in these matters.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Simms,
Director of Operations
Maryland Alliance of Public Charter Schools

Cc: Dr. Kimberly A. Hill, Superintendent of Schools

EDITH J. PATTERSON, ED.D.
Legislative District 28
Charles County
Senate and House Committees
- Agriculture
- Land Resources
- Child, Racing and Gaming
- State, Southern Maryland
Home Adoptions

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladensburg Road, Room 419
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Phone 410-964-5041, Fax 410-964-5047
www.mdhoc.state.md.us

March 8, 2023

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
United States Senate
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Van Hollen,

I am writing in support of Phoenix International Incorporated, the Charles County-based nonprofit promoting inclusive arts education. Two of Phoenix International's missions are to accelerate learning and increase access to high wage careers for rural youth in Southern Maryland. To that end, Phoenix International intends to develop high quality out-of-school arts education programs and establish a state-of-the-art arts and cultural center in Charles County.

Phoenix International's funding request is to support the purchase of much needed technology (lighting, sound, and film equipment) for its direct-service arts education programming; gird the operational capacity such as salaries, wages, and fees for a program coordinator, consultants, and subject matter experts to complete a feasibility study of the arts and culture center; and support other programmatic expenses.

The contribution and support from your office will greatly improve the quality of life for families in Charles, St. Mary's, and Calvert Counties. For these reasons, I respectfully request your support for congressional funding to support the efforts of Phoenix International Incorporated in expanding high quality in-and out-of-school arts educational opportunities in Southern Maryland.

Sincerely,

Delegate Edith J. Patterson,
Legislative District 28

Community Partners

Phoenix International School of the Arts (PISOTA) has prioritized creating and developing generations of creative global leaders who leave their mark on Charles Co. and the world. We know that it takes a village to ensure the success of our scholars, further, we've implemented a partnership strategy that consists of identifying program partners that align with one or more of the school's design anchors. Program partners enrich the academic and cultural programs at the school

- [Click here](#) to access the list of programmatic community partners for the 2023-2024 school year

Surveys

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During our year 1 recruitment, we conducted a Charles County Family Survey. The survey was distributed through our social media channels and via email. 100% of respondents shared that they are not satisfied with the middle school options in Charles County. They cited issues such as distrust with the school district and teaching methods not aligned with how their students learn. Screenshots of these survey results can be available upon request.

During the schools year 1 implementation, we continued to distribute middle-of-year and end-of-year surveys to our scholars, staff, and current families to gauge the satisfaction of their experiences with PISOTA and to identify academic and operational priorities for the school's growth.

Waiting Lists

Phoenix International School of the Arts (PISOTA) maintains a waiting list. In year 1, we had over 600 families on the waiting list. In year 2, we have over 300 families on the waiting list. There are no other free, public school options outside of the traditional public schools in our county.

Need For and Benefits to the Community

African-American students are disproportionately reported for attacks/threats/fighting and disrespect or disruption which result in the highest out-of-school suspension and expulsion reports than any other racial group or student population. This statistic 9 remains true in Charles County. The Maryland State Department of Education reports that Black students in Charles County are suspended or expelled at a rate that is over seven (7) times more than white students. We believe that engaging students in authentic relationships, compassionate peer-to-peer and adult-to-peer accountability, and within structures that promote apologies, affirmations, stands, and commitments, then we will create space for students to express their differences and adapt to change in ways that are productive, healing, and solution-oriented. At Phoenix International School of the Arts, we are intentionally integrating social and emotional learning (SEL) and restorative practices throughout our curriculum, in the way our teachers and students interact with one another, and through our daily advisory program called, "Crew". Our student services staff work in collaboration with students' families to develop an individualized wellness plan for each student to use during their time at PISOTA and beyond.

Additionally, during focus groups held in February of 2020, community members expressed concern for students' emotional safety in the school building. Charles County Commissioner Thomasina Coates was in attendance and advised about serving students in Charles County's District 2. Coates' primary emphasis was on family engagement and parenting empowerment circles as critical needs for student achievement. Informational Interviews with Education and Community Experts" for more information regarding community input on PISOTA's development. PISOTA brings a fresh approach to teaching and learning to our geographic area of focus, Charles County, where opportunities and access have been limited due to its suburban-rural setting, a growing number of families from low-income backgrounds, and very little industry to support economic and social mobility within the county. Residents are eager for change as evidenced in data collected during the conception stage of PISOTA. The program will engage the current opportunities within Charles County but will explicitly seek out and collaborate with experts, organizations, schools, and other

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resources within the larger DC Metropolitan area, nationally, and globally to bring new ideas and activities, to PISOTA's students and families. We will not work in isolation but will share our lessons learned along the way with other schools in the county and use every opportunity to elevate promising and best practices with educators within our region.

Census Data for Charles County, MD

	Population	Median Income	Poverty (All and <18 years)	Education Attainment	Employment Rate
20601 (Waldorf)	27,789	\$115,742	All - 27,270 <18 - 6,454	high school or equivalent - ~56.5% bachelor's degree or higher - ~18.4%	72.7% in labor force over the age of 25
20602 (Waldorf)	28,736	\$102,536	All - 28,870 < 18 - 6,894	high school or equivalent - ~60.7% bachelor's degree or higher - ~14.73%	72.3% in labor force over the age of 25
20603 (Waldorf)	32,485	\$132,753	All - 32,319 < 18 - 8,110	high school or equivalent - ~49% bachelor's degree or higher - ~22%	73.1% in labor force over the age of 25

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20611 (Bel Alton)	1,100	\$129,598	All - 1,349 < 18 - 214	high school or equivalent - ~69.2% bachelor's degree or higher - ~9.5%	66.4% in labor force over the age of 25
20616 (Bryans Road)	7,356	\$118,864	All - 6,770 < 18 - 1,851	high school or equivalent - ~64% bachelor's degree or higher - ~13.7%	76.2% in labor force over the age of 25
20617 (Bryantown)	761	\$123,438	All - 630 < 18 - 169	high school or equivalent - ~48% bachelor's degree or higher - ~13%	64.8% in labor force over the age of 25
20625 (Cobb Island)	848	\$126,657	All - 1,248 < 18 - 163	high school or equivalent - ~67% bachelor's degree or higher - ~8%	80.2% in labor force over the age of 25
20632 (Faulkner)	538	\$196,588	All - 795 < 18 - 244	high school or equivalent - ~64% bachelor's degree or higher - ~15%	55.1% in labor force over the age of 25
20637 (Hughesville)	6,111	\$141,382	All - 6,030 < 18 - 1,296	high school or equivalent - ~54% bachelor's degree or higher - ~19%	65.9% in labor force over the age of 25
20640 (Indian Head)	9,949	\$88,750	All - 10,530	high school or	65.0% in labor force

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			< 18 - 2,303	equivalent - ~66.4% bachelor's degree or higher - ~8.5%	over the age of 25
20645 (Issue)	769	\$119,167	All - 763 < 18 - 165	high school or equivalent - ~61% bachelor's degree or higher - ~29%	36.9% in labor force over the age of 25
20646 (La Plata)	20,411	\$130,168	All - 20,599 < 18 - 4,658	high school or equivalent - ~56% bachelor's degree or higher - ~17%	61.9% in labor force over the age of 25

School Demographics Comparison Chart

	Maryland	Charles County	Milton M. Somers Middle School	Archbishop Neale School (private)	Piccowaxen Middle School	PISOTA
Total Enrollment	889,971	27,598 (PK4 - 12)	666 (6 - 8)	~250 (PK - 8)	616 (6 - 8)	250 (6 - 8)
% Hispanic	22%	13%	10.5%	1.9%	10.4%	7.2%
% Black	32.75%	57.3%	51.4%	20.9%	16.4%	74%
% White	33%	18.2%	25.7%	52.9%	63%	4.4%
% two or More Races	5.2%	8%	8.3%	8%	9%	8.8%
% American	0.3%	0.3%	0%	0.8%	0%	0%

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Indian						
% Asian/Pacific Islander	Pacific Islander - 0.1% Asian - 6.7%	Pacific Islander - 0.2% Asian - 2.9%	0%	Asian - 4.9% Pacific Islander - 0%	0%	0.8%
% Economically Disadvantaged	38.9%	31.7%	27.4%	unknown	19.7%	40%
% English Language Learners (MLs)	12.3%	5%	0%	unknown	0%	1%
% Students with Disabilities	12.4%	10.8%	10.8%	unknown	7.2%	10%

Data source: "Maryland Report Card" and "U. S. News and World Report"

Benefits to the Community

Phoenix International School of the Arts (PISOTA) will be a value add to the educational landscape in Charles County, MD as its first fine and performing arts public secondary school learning community intentionally designed for utilizing an internationally-renowned curriculum for global and local impact. PISOTA will offer intensive and high-quality instruction in dance and choreography, instrumental performance and composition, vocal performance and composition, theatre, visual and digital arts, art history and museum curation, and the business of the creative workforce. Our foundation is grounded in cultivating well-rounded, globally competent scholars, artists, leaders, and innovators who use their talents and gifts to make the world better. The school will open with grades 6 and 7 during the 2022-2023 school year and will expand an additional grade level each year until we reach 6th through 12th grade in 2028.

According to the federal definition of rural and urban school districts, Charles County is a Distant Town¹ due to the population of Charles County and its proximity to an urbanized area, Washington, DC. Charles County consists of a student demographic serving 61% students of color. Access to alternative educational options and resources are often left to geographic zoning, further emphasizing the inequity and inaccessibility to resources

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felt by youth and families in more rural and isolated communities within Charles County. Generally, differentiated educational opportunities tend to bypass Southern Maryland and go directly to Prince George's, Howard, and Montgomery Counties, Washington, DC or Northern, VA, leaving the region to be a rural pocket of Maryland with no school choice, no differentiated public schooling options, and a graduating student population fleeing the region for work. Further, zero out of 37 schools in Charles County specialize in the fine and performing arts or leverage a global curriculum or network - a detriment to preparing youth for long-term success in college and high-growth careers in an increasingly globalized and innovative workforce.

Projected Student Enrollment

Information on the proposed charter school's projected student enrollment, and evidence to support the projected enrollment based on the needs analysis and other relevant data and factors, such as the methodology and calculations used.

Enrollment Plan

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) is one of the fastest growing school districts in Maryland. Most recently, in just one year, the district enrollment grew by over 400 students. Though CCPS boasts 22 elementary schools, the district has only 8 middle schools and 7 high schools. There are limited alternative schooling options - private, parochial schools - which tend to be unavailable to the 10.7 thousand families living in poverty in Charles County. As such, students, that live in hard-to-reach 4 communities within Charles County, such as, Bryans Road, Indian Head, Cobb Island, and Nanjemoy Creek, have disproportionate access to the same quality learning experiences gained by students zoned to attend schools in Charles County's central communities; those same students lack the access to growth opportunities that students have in neighboring school systems, such as, in Montgomery, Prince George's, and Fairfax Counties.

The addition of Phoenix International School of the Arts (PISOTA) to Charles County's educational landscape means there are more high-quality seats to match the rapid growth of the district. It means that teachers, school building leaders, and all staff engaging with students will have relief in being responsible for less students at a given time. PISOTA offers a vibrant learning community to Charles County families seeking a smaller school model. At full capacity, grades 6 - 12, we will have less than 1,000 students. While all of the public middle schools in Charles County have over 600 students, PISOTA will not have more than 350 students across grades 6 - 8. While many of CCPS' schools leverage a large school model, PISOTA will add a free, alternative small school option for families. Considering teaching and learning post-COVID-19 surges, we anticipate that families will prefer to send their students to schools with smaller enrollment sizes with the added flexibility to engage in a school's culture and its curriculum through robust remote learning (see Flexible Learning section of the Education Plan). We believe that a smaller school model will have a positive impact on employee wellbeing, student's learning outcomes and student behavior.

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Projected Student Enrollment

Grades Served	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027
6	100	110	60	85
7	50	90	100	70
8	25	50	90	100

Projected Student Demographics

An analysis of the proposed charter school's projected student demographics and a description of the demographics of students attending public schools in the local community in which the charter school would be located and the school districts from which the students are, or would be, drawn to attend the charter school; a description of how the applicant plans to establish and maintain a racially and socio-economically diverse student body, including proposed strategies (that are consistent with applicable legal requirements) to recruit, admit, enroll, and retain a diverse student body.

An applicant that is unlikely to establish and maintain a racially and socio-economically diverse student body at the proposed charter school because the charter school would be located in a racially or socio-economically segregated or isolated community, or due to the charter school's specific education mission, must describe

- a) Why it is unlikely to be able to establish and maintain a racially and socio-economically diverse student body at the proposed charter school;
- b) How the anticipated racial and socio-economic makeup of the student body would promote the purposes of the CSP to provide high-quality educational opportunities to all students, which may include a specialized educational program or mission; and
- c) The anticipated impact of the proposed charter school on the racial and socio-economic diversity of the public schools and school districts from which students would be drawn to attend the charter school.

Strategies to Recruit, Enroll, and Retain a Diverse Student Body.

Phoenix International School of the Arts (PISOTA) has a particular affinity toward providing access to exceptional educational programs to students in Charles County's hard to reach neighborhoods. We plan to target those areas, particularly, families living in mobile home communities, shelters, in neighborhoods like Nanjemoy, Indian Head, Ironside, and non-English speaking communities. We'll partner with trusted organizations serving

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those communities to ensure that we respectfully enter into their communities to share about PISOTA and the supports we'll have in place to attract and sustain their enrollment. Our outreach cannot only be virtual, we intend to be on-the-ground in the safest way possible. This might mean canvassing at grocery stores, sharing information at community meal pick-ups, coat drives, and similar types of low-contact events.

Recruitment/Outreach

PISOTA has designed a student recruitment plan that promotes the inclusion of all students, including by eliminating any barriers to enrollment for educationally disadvantaged students. Given our programmatic goals to cultivate students to be globally competent artists, innovators, scholars, and leaders, we invest additional resources into ensuring that we reach all pockets of Charles County and have the accessibility resources to be welcoming to all Charles County students and their families and loved ones. Primary recruitment strategies include:

- As soon as charter approval is received, we will ignite our recruitment strategies with a series of virtual information sessions
- Street Crew: the founding team, in partnership with DREAM Academy participants and families, will canvass neighborhoods across Charles County to pass out flyers, distribute door hangers, and knock on doors July 2024 through March 2025
- Family Referral Program
- Community Cookout: in summer 2024 the founding team will host a community cookout, pending the state's safety regulations, to celebrate the launch of PISOTA. This event will be our official kick-off to family engagement and student recruitment
- Community Events/ Festivals: the founding team will attend community festivals and events across the planning year to engage with the various neighborhoods across the county, including the annual Back-to-School Fiesta and the Charles County Arts Alliances' Arts Fest. Additionally, PISOTA will partner and amplify the reach of Charles County's local arts programs, dance studios, et. al.
- Community Meetings/ Town Halls: The founding team will continue attending regular community meetings and town hall events across the beginning in the summer of 2024
- DREAM Academy: the founding team will continue to offer its curriculum pilot, DREAM Academy, a 90-minute academic and leadership enrichment program for 4th - 6th graders, as a learning experience for students across the County; these learning opportunities will occur once monthly February - July during the pre-application and pre-operation period
- Information Sessions: the founding team will work to establish relationships with local education nonprofits, such as STEAM Onward or Phenomenal Young Women, Inc., and school partners such as EL Education or to host informational sessions for students and families between each enrollment season

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- PISOTA Design Studios: the founding team will plan for at least three design studios during which families can come to a neighborhood recreation center, library, or virtual classroom to experience elements of the PISOTA model; the founding team will use lessons designed for DREAM Academy to give families a feel of the academic experience

Meeting the enrollment projections for our first year have been critical for our current and future success as a program. To that end, PISOTA has leveraged the tenets of the design process to iterate on the strategies shared above. Student recruitment for the founding year and each subsequent year will require full team buy-in and a try-it-all mindset.

Enrollment/Admissions

The application for enrollment into Phoenix International School of the Arts (PISOTA) is available digitally through the SchoolMint platform and by hardcopy. The enrollment platform was selected bearing in mind the following considerations: ease of use for families (including language translation), platform integration into Student Information Systems, sustainability, accessibility features, and security of information as factors for deciding on which platform to use. Should families choose to complete a hardcopy enrollment form, they have the ability to download the form from our website and email it or mail it to our address. The hardcopy enrollment form will be readily available in English and Spanish. Families can request a translation to their home language (if different than English or Spanish). To ensure we are reaching our intended audience, PISOTA will provide advertising in multiple languages and collaborate with community organizations with inclusive creative and international-minded missions.

After speaking with Maryland charter school leaders, we have learned that we must reach five times the number of families we anticipate to enroll with several methods of contact per family, including but not limited to, face-to-face meetings, phone calls, door knocks, text messages, and emails. The PISOTA founding team understands that sharing our school model with parents/guardians and students should be considered through various lenses; our team is committed to crafting outreach and recruitment strategies with a culturally responsive approach. Admission to Phoenix International School of the Arts (PISOTA) shall be open to all students residing in Charles County, MD eligible to attend the grades provided by PISOTA. In the event that there are spaces available, students who are not residents of Charles County may be admitted pursuant to applicable Charles County Public Schools' (CCPS) policies on tuition and admission of non-resident students. Admission will not be denied to any student based on factors such as race, color, gender, socio-economic status, parental status, national origin, religion, English language proficiency, cognitive ability, or disability.

PISOTA shall actively recruit and encourage student applicants from a wide cross-section of the Charles County community with the aim of including, to the extent possible, a level of racial, ethnic, student ability, and socio-economic diversity that closely approximates that of the Charles County Public School system as a whole. To achieve this goal and to maximize the potential positive impact of PISOTA on the enrollment conditions in established county schools and, additionally, to have a beneficial financial effect on the schools whose enrollments are affected by PISOTA,

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weighted lotteries, and active recruitment will occur. 7 Lottery Eligibility PISOTA will accept General Enrollment Applications during the application period for students entering sixth (6) and seventh (7) grade during the 2022 - 2023 school year who live in Charles County, MD. Proof of Charles County residency is required of all enrolled students. Siblings are given priority, and we make every effort to keep families together. If one student is selected to enroll in the school, their eligible sibling(s) will move up on the waitlist.

Family Engagement Plan

A robust family and community engagement plan designed to ensure the active participation of families and the community that includes the following:

- a) How families and the community were, are, or will be engaged in determining the vision and design for the charter school, including specific examples of how family and the community input was, is, or is expected to be incorporated into the vision and design for the charter school.
- b) How the charter school will meaningfully engage with both families and the community to create strong and ongoing partnerships.
- c) How the charter school will foster a collaborative culture that involves the families of all students, including underserved students, in ensuring their ongoing input in school decision-making.
- d) How the charter school's recruitment, admissions, enrollment, and retention processes will engage and accommodate families from various backgrounds, including English learners, students with disabilities, and students of color, including by holding enrollment and recruitment events on weekends or during non-standard work hours, making interpreters available, and providing enrollment and recruitment information in widely accessible formats (e.g., hard copy and online in multiple languages; as appropriate, large print or braille for visually-impaired individuals) through widely available and transparent means (e.g., online and at community locations).
- e) How the charter school has engaged or will engage families and the community to develop an instructional model to best serve the targeted student population and their families, including students with disabilities and English learners.

How Families and the Community Engaged in the Vision and Design for the School Family and Community Input

DREAM Sessions - The founding group participated in DREAM Sessions with the community to understand how the community would design the, "school of its dreams." These DREAM Sessions were held at local churches, HOA meetings, and in conversation with families 1:1. During these sessions, we'd break out into small groups, "DREAM Circles," where a founding group member would pose questions such as, "What program components are most important to you at the school?" "What fears do you have about school?" Once all of the responses were aggregated, we developed the school's 5 key pillars that provide foundation to the school's current model. These community-designed 5 key pillars are:

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Definition:
Charter School
#1000001/000001

Charles County families and the greater Southern Maryland community, JOIN US, as we define charter schools, how charter schools operate, and how they will operate in Charles County and the Maryland educational landscape. Learn more about the vision for Phoenix International School of the Arts - a proposed international fine and performing arts public charter school for Charles County.

January 10th, 2024 7:00 PM
Lithonia Baptist Church
650 Middletown Road, Waldorf, MD
charter school info session
& Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration event
for Southern Maryland

KEY PILLARS

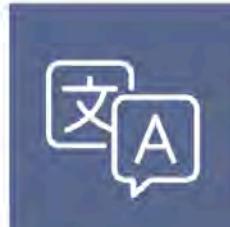


Key PILLARS



01. Excellence in Academics, Arts Instruction + Arts Integration

PISOTA offers pre-professional training in the following art practices: dance, drama, voice, instrument, visual, literary, and art history/museum curation.



02. Global Competence, Leadership, + Bilingualism

We believe that students everywhere should have access to the global community and economy no matter their zip code. Multi-language acquisition is at the foundation of our curriculum and the center of our ethos.



03. Mental Health + Holistic Wellness

With discovering a greater sense of purpose comes a greater need for self-care and wellness. We prioritize mental, social, emotional, and physical well-being to be a driver to our purpose-driven identity work.



04. Real-World Experience + Access to Experts

We understand that the direction after high school is different for each student. Therefore, we ensure exposure to all options and opportunities in preparation for their continued success after graduation.



05. Community Uplift

As the first charter school in Charles County, it is imperative that we listen to the beat of its residents. This includes prioritizing local partnerships, sharing resources, and maintaining a diverse structure that matches the surrounding population.

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SY '23-'24 - ANNUAL ACCOUNTABILITY PLAN

SECTION 3: FAMILY + COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

<p>Beginning of Year Goals</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The school will engage in community and business partnerships that add value to the school community. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. By March 2024, the school will have partnered with at least 3 business/community organizations which align with the school mission and vision. 2. The school will establish and maintain a high-level of parent and family engagement. 	<p>Goal Progress-to-date</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As of April 22, 2024 the school has conducted over 15 family engagement events. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. As of April 22, 2024, the school has partnered with over 10 community partners and businesses for programmatic impact. 2. The school sends weekly family newsletter and conducts an annual family-school climate survey. 3. Attendance at in-person all-school events are above 50% based on number of attendees.
<p>Progress Monitoring Structures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong community outreach committee • Market the school within the community and with local business • Create opportunities for local business to contribute to the school in various ways • Communications plan for informing families and stakeholders • Sign in sheets • RSVP Files • Post event surveys 	

ARTIFACTS: [Linktree](#) to section artifacts

<p>Evidence of Family Involvement in decision-making</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Two parents on the Phoenix International School of the Arts Governance Board <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Monique Newton Walker, parent of a current 7th grade scholar b. CharlRe' Slaughter-Atiemo, parent of a current 6th grade scholar 2. Parent/guardian school-sponsored professional learning: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Maryland Arts Day in Annapolis, February 13, 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Visit the PISOTA website, "About" webpage to read more on our Board of Trustees: https://pisota.org/about 2. Parent/guardian Professional Learning Artifacts <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Photos from Maryland Arts Day
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	<p>2024 attended by Bridgette Patterson, parent of current 6th and 8th grade scholars</p> <p>b. TEAM YELLOW Education Panel on February 26, 2024 attended by Bridgette Patterson, parent of current 6th and 8th grade scholars</p> <p>3. Family School Climate Survey is being conducted from April 9, 2024 - May 9, 2024</p>	 <p>b. Notes from the TEAM YELLOW Education Panel: https://tr.ee/dYQUyWYT6V</p> <p>Do you feel like your voice is heard and valued in decision-making processes at our school? 2 responses</p>  <p>3.</p>
Evidence of A PTSO	<p>1. October 2023 PTSO meeting agenda presentation</p> <p>2. PTSO Executive Board</p> <p>3. PTSO-Sponsored School Dance</p>	<p>Images from the PTSO-sponsored School Dance</p> 

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Evidence of Community Partnerships

<h2>Evidence of Community Partnerships</h2>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 2023 - 2024 List of Community Partners and Family Engagement events2. Stella's Girls "Sunshine Project" girls mentorship program started in March 2024 and continues through the last day of school	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. List of 2023 - 2024 Programmatic Community Partners and Family Engagement Events
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1. 2023 - 2024 List of Community Partners and Family Engagement events
2. Stella's Girls "Sunshine Project" girls mentorship program started in March 2024 and continues through the last day of school

1. [List of 2023 - 2024 Programmatic Community Partners and Family Engagement Events](#)

How the schools operations will support and reflect the needs of the community

How the plans for the operation of the charter school will support and reflect the needs of students and families in the community, including consideration of district or community assets and how the school's location, or anticipated location if a facility has not been secured, will facilitate access for the targeted student population (e.g., access to public transportation or other transportation options, the demographics of neighborhoods within walking distance of the school, and transportation plans and costs for students who are not able to walk or use public transportation to access the school).

Supporting and Reflecting the Needs of Students and Families in the Community

Facility

Phoenix International School of the Arts (PISOTA) is centrally located in Charles County in its county seat of La Plata, MD.

Transportation

In our effort to promote equitable access to the school, Phoenix International School of the Arts (PISOTA) pays for transportation services to and from school through Charles County Public Schools. The school pays \$1,000 per enrolled student at PISOTA whether that student is a bus-rider or not. The Charles County Public Schools district has mandated the pricing structure for PISOTA. Charles County does not have a robust public transit system, therefore a transportation system is critical to ensure families are able to reach the school. In our first year of operation (SY 2023-2024), approximately 57% of students used the transportation system to get to and from school.

Plans for Not Hampering, Delaying, or Negatively Affecting Desegregation Efforts

A description of the steps the applicant has taken or will take to ensure that the proposed charter school

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- a). would not hamper, delay, or negatively affect any desegregation efforts in the community in which the charter school would be located and the public school districts from which students are, or would be, drawn to attend the charter school, including efforts to comply with a court order, statutory obligation, or voluntary efforts to create and maintain desegregated public schools; and
- b). to ensure that the proposed charter school would not otherwise increase racial or socio-economic segregation or isolation in the schools from which the students are, or would be, drawn to attend the charter school.

There are no current federal desegregation orders for La Plata. PISOTA will not hamper, delay, or negatively affect any other desegregation efforts underway in the community or the public school districts from which students would be drawn to attend PISOTA.

Phoenix International's enrollment staff will monitor enrollment data carefully to ensure the school can establish and maintain a racially diverse student body that reflects the district's demographics. Phoenix International employs strategies to recruit, enroll, and maintain a diverse student body as detailed in the section "Projected Student Demographics".

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