



TESTIMONY TO THE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

HB 0150: Housing and Community Development – Adaptive Reuse

POSITION: Support

BY: Nancy Soreng, President

DATE: February 7, 2023

The League of Women Voters of Maryland supports HB 150: Housing and Community Development - Adaptive Reuse. Through our studied positions we believe that loans should be put to use to allow for affordable housing, new construction and/or rehabilitation, and housing programs to target those geographic areas that are most affected and in need of housing assistance.

Maryland is suffering from a housing crisis, in large part, due to a lack of housing and affordable housing. In new data released by the US Census Bureau the Emergency Rental Assistance program will run dry in May of this year only exacerbating this problem. According to the Department of Housing and Community Development Maryland can anticipate over 97,000 new low-income households and a severe shortage of housing.

HB 150 addresses this issue by allowing the retrofitting and restoration of those buildings that are no longer being used to be turned into multi-family housing units. LWVMD believes this will address a wide variety of concerns including lack of actual housing and affordability once those homes are available.

LWVMD believes that it should be in the purview of the Department of Housing and Community Development to oversee these loans and this program as they provide the much needed knowledge and feedback on Maryland's families and their housing needs.

LWVMD encourages a favorable report on HB 150.