



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE † ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON † DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

March 1, 2022

HB 1077

Department of Housing and Community Development - Racial Equity Impact Assessment

House Environment and Transportation Committee

Position: Support

The Maryland Catholic Conference (“Conference”) represents the public policy interests of the three Roman Catholic (arch) dioceses serving Maryland: the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Archdiocese of Washington, and the Diocese of Wilmington.

House Bill 1077 requires the Department of Housing and Community Development to annually complete a racial equity impact assessment; and requiring the Department to work with independent experts to complete the assessment and make the assessment available to the public.

The Conference supports legislation that recognizes the dignity of the human person in pursuit of the common good. Equitable housing plans that help create a sustainable and economically viable region while assisting the housing needs of the community, especially the vulnerable and marginalized, can be extremely beneficial. As stated in *Economic Justice for All: A Pastoral Letter on Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy* “*Personal decisions, policies of private and public bodies, and power relationships must all be evaluated by their effects on those who lack the minimum necessities of nutrition, housing, education, and health care.*”. House Bill 1077 seeks to identify the need for more equitable housing in the state of Maryland by analyzing the needs of our most vulnerable and marginalized communities.

The Conference appreciates your consideration and, for these reasons, respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 1077.