

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

House Bill 678

(Montgomery County Delegation and Prince George's
County Delegation)

Environment and Transportation

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission - Prince George's
County Recreation Programs - Youth Sports Program and Division
MC/PG 115-19**

This bill requires the Prince George's County Planning Board to offer a comprehensive youth sports program that provides a variety of sports programming, leagues, and teams throughout Prince George's County, as part of the county's recreation programs. The planning board must create a youth sports division to (1) coordinate youth sports programming, leagues, and teams and (2) incorporate youth sports activities into the programs.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) can handle the requirements of the bill with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The Prince George's County Planning Board is required to (1) provide an adequate and balanced program of recreation to serve the needs and interests of various age groups among the residents of the county; and (2) coordinate the program with M-NCPPC's park functions.

The county planning board may develop a recreation program that includes physical, social, mental, and creative opportunities that the county planning board considers appropriate to offer in:

- major recreation centers, playfields, athletic fields, playgrounds, tennis courts, baseball diamonds, swimming pools, golf courses, community centers, and social centers on publicly or privately owned land or buildings made available for these purposes or over which the county planning board has sole or joint jurisdiction; or
- land or buildings of a municipal corporation or political subdivision in the county, if the municipal corporation or political subdivision requests the services of the county planning board.

The county planning board is authorized to contract with recreation or sports groups or associations to incorporate the activities of the groups or associations into the recreation program established by the county planning board.

Background: M-NCPPC is a bi-county agency serving Montgomery and Prince George's counties that was empowered by the State in 1927 to acquire and administer a regional system of parks within the Maryland-Washington Metropolitan District and administer a general plan for the physical development of the area. In 1970, M-NCPPC became responsible for managing the Prince George's County public recreation program. M-NCPPC operates approximately 52,000 acres of parkland, trails, and open space in Montgomery and Prince George's counties, as well as a variety of facilities, including nature centers, community centers, historic sites, and sports venues.

The Prince George's County Planning Board

In Prince George's County, the planning board directs the work of M-NCPPC through the Prince George's County Planning Department and the Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation. M-NCPPC's activities in the county are determined by the Prince George's County Council, with input and comments from the Prince George's County Executive. In addition to managing the county's recreation program, the county planning board is responsible for advising the county council on proposed changes to zoning ordinance and subdivision regulations, offering recommendations to the county council on zoning map amendment and special exception applications, reviewing and approving site plans, serving as the final authority in administering the subdivision regulations for the county, and supervising the preparation of land use plans and zoning maps for county council approval.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Prince George's County; Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission; Department of Legislative Services

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