



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: Senate Bill 987 – Racing and Community Development Act of 2020

SPONSOR: Senator Guzzone, *et al.*

HEARING DATE: February 25, 2020

COMMITTEE: Budget and Taxation

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 987**, which provides for the redevelopment of Pimlico Race Course in Baltimore City and Laurel Park in Anne Arundel County. The bill provides for bond issuances, funding mechanisms and fund transfers, the ownership and management of racing facilities, and tax incentives. In addition, the bill specifies that the City of Bowie and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) would receive a majority of the property when the current owners divest themselves of it.

Prince George's County has played a part in Maryland's rich history of horse racing. For generations, the County has hosted races at the Rosecroft Raceway in Fort Washington and at the Bowie Race Track in the City of Bowie. Although the Bowie Race Track hosted its last race in July 1985 and the training facility has been closed since 2015, the City of Bowie and Prince George's County has remained focused on acquiring the land for other uses.

In Prince George's County, the City of Bowie, and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission have been devoted to determining a community use for the property. The M-NCPPC intends to use the land for passive recreational activities, as specified in the bill. In addition, the City of Bowie intends to use the land for active recreational activities, which will be integral to supporting sports-related activities.

As this bill provides security that the County will be conveyed a portion of the property, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 987** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.