



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: House Bill 1109 – Prince George's County - Economic Development - Business Improvement Districts PG 407-23

SPONSOR: Prince George's County Delegation

HEARING DATE: March 29, 2023

COMMITTEE: Finance

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 1109 – Prince George's County - Economic Development - Business Improvement Districts PG 407-23**, which allows Prince George's County to establish business improvement districts (BIDs) with the support of at least 51 percent of property owners within the proposed BID, versus the current state standard of at least 80 percent.

BIDs are a private/public organization that supplements public services within geographically defined boundaries by generating multiyear revenue through a compulsory assessment on local property and/or businesses. This allows communities to offer supplemental services covering cleaning and beautification, marketing, business recruitment, and public safety.

Current Maryland law requires the support of at least 80 percent of owners within the proposed geographic area for the BID. Since this standard went into effect in 2010, no BID has been established in Maryland using this threshold. This led to the passage of HB 386 in 2017. A local bill from Montgomery County, HB 386 lowered the required support to establish a BID to at least 51 percent only for Montgomery County. This has allowed for the development of the Silver Spring BID.

Prince George's County supports **HB 1109** because it makes it viable for the establishment of a BID for the Blue Line Corridor, an economic development project that is important not only to Prince George's but also Maryland. The Board of Public Works recently approved \$400 million in bonding authority for infrastructure work for the project. Establishing a BID in the Blue Line Corridor will help the community

develop as it builds over time. The City of Hyattsville also hopes to establish a BID under **HB 1109**, as they have found the current statewide threshold unfeasible.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 1109** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.