



Maryland

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

HEARING DATE: February 4th, 2025

BILL NO: HB 279

COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation

POSITION: Support

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrew Wilson (443) 721-6789

TITLE: Municipalities – Annexation Resolutions – Submission to Department of Planning

BILL ANALYSIS:

HB 279 adds the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) to the list of agencies to receive a copy of the annexation resolution with the new boundaries from the chief executive and administrative officer of a municipality that has annexed property.

POSITION AND RATIONALE:

The Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) supports HB 279 and asks for a favorable report. Presently, MDP receives notification from Department of Legislative Services (DLS) that a municipality has annexed property. Upon receiving the new municipal boundary information, MDP updates its geographic information system (GIS) maps and associated databases to reflect the new municipal boundaries. This GIS mapping information is posted on [MD iMAP](#), Maryland's Enterprise GIS, and is subsequently referenced in many online maps that display municipal boundaries. However, notification from DLS is sometimes delayed or DLS may not receive any notification from the municipality, and when that happens maps are not updated in a timely manner. Receiving this information directly from the municipality will improve the overall efficiency and promptness of MDP's municipal boundary GIS updating process. MDP reviews draft annexations per the requirements of Local Government Article § 4-415(f) but cannot assume that a municipality will ultimately adopt a draft annexation. Thus, it is essential that MDP be informed within 10 days after an annexation resolution takes effect so the department can update its records.

Municipalities are required to send MDP at least 30 days before the public hearing on an annexation resolution a copy of the annexation plan. MDP reviews the proposed annexation resolution for: (1) consistency with the municipal comprehensive plan, including the Municipal Growth Element, (2) consistency of proposed municipal zoning with the county's current zoning of the annexed property, and (3) whether the annexed property could be designated a priority funding area (PFA) upon annexation. MDP submits its review to the municipality prior to the public hearing and requests a copy of the annexation resolution with the new boundaries once adopted. Far too often MDP is not informed when an annexation is formally adopted, which prevents us from updating our municipal boundary and PFA layers. Inadequately updated municipal boundary and PFA layers may delay the provision of economic development, community development, or housing growth-related funding that is restricted to PFAs, which may blunt or hinder projects vital to the economic growth of Maryland and its communities. This bill adds MDP to the formal notification requirement and will empower MDP to check with the municipality to request a copy of the annexation resolution with the new boundaries when we learn the annexation resolution has been adopted but MDP has not received official notification.