
By: **Delegates Kelley, Brown, Conroy, Healey, Howard, Moe, Parker, and
Patterson**

Introduced and read first time: June 14, 2006

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Planning - Relocation to Prince George's County**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Planning to relocate its
4 headquarters to Prince George's County; requiring the Department of Planning
5 and the Department of General Services to ensure that the relocation is
6 accomplished in the most efficient and economical manner possible; requiring
7 the Governor to include certain funds in the State budget for certain moving and
8 build out costs and staff retention bonuses; requiring the Governor to include
9 certain funds in the State budget for certain fiscal years for certain rental costs;
10 and generally relating to the relocation of the Department of Planning to Prince
11 George's County.

12 **Preamble**

13 WHEREAS, The lessons of September 11, 2001, natural disasters such as
14 Hurricane Isabel of 2003, and even occasional power outages remind us of the need to
15 diversify State assets across jurisdictions; and

16 WHEREAS, Both federal and State guidelines were adopted after September 11
17 to decentralize government assets for security purposes; and

18 WHEREAS, Prince George's County is one of Maryland's most populous
19 jurisdictions and home to many of its most productive citizens, but does not house a
20 single State agency; and

21 WHEREAS, The Department of Planning has adopted the cultural and
22 historical programs of the Maryland Historical Trust; and

23 WHEREAS, The merger of the Department of Planning with the Maryland
24 Historical Trust will result in a significant number of new staff members in the
25 Department, which will necessitate finding new office space for the Department; and

26 WHEREAS, Relocating the Department of Planning to Prince George's County,
27 a central location in the State, will aid planners who travel to all areas of the State;
28 and

1 WHEREAS, The relocation of the Department of Planning to Prince George's
2 County will support the State's Transit Oriented Development goals by housing the
3 Department of Planning near an underutilized Metro station in the county; and

4 WHEREAS, The economic activity of the Department of Planning will act as a
5 catalyst for revitalization in Prince George's County; and

6 WHEREAS, The relocation will complement the future renovations at the State
7 office complex in Baltimore City; now, therefore,

8 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
9 MARYLAND, That:

10 (a) Subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of this section and
11 notwithstanding any other provision of law, on or before January 1, 2008, the
12 Department of Planning shall relocate its headquarters to Prince George's County;
13 and

14 (b) Prior to the relocation specified under subsection (a) of this section, the
15 Department of Planning and the Department of General Services shall ensure that
16 the relocation is accomplished in the most efficient and economical manner possible.

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

18 (a) The Governor shall include in the fiscal year 2008 State budget an amount
19 sufficient to pay for Department of Planning moving and build out costs and staff
20 retention bonuses; and

21 (b) Beginning with the fiscal year 2008 State budget and every year
22 thereafter, the Governor shall appropriate an amount sufficient to pay for annual
23 office space rental costs related to the relocation of the Department of Planning to
24 Prince George's County.

25 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
26 June 1, 2007.