

## Chapter 162

**(Senate Bill 360)**

AN ACT concerning

**Calvert County – Budget Hearings and Procedures**

FOR the purpose of altering the procedures for preparing and adopting a budget for Calvert County; requiring each county department, agency, or board receiving county funds to submit a certain itemized budget request on or before a date set by the County Commissioners of Calvert County; requiring the County Commissioners to conduct a public hearing on a certain staff–recommended budget and a subsequent public hearing on the County Commissioners’ budget; requiring that one of the newspapers in which a notice of hearings is published be a newspaper of general circulation in the county; providing that the final county budget be adopted after holding the record open for a certain number of days after the hearing on the County Commissioners’ budget; requiring that a copy of a proposed county budget be available in a certain manner for a certain minimum time period before each public hearing; making stylistic changes; and generally relating to the procedures for preparing and adopting a budget for Calvert County.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
 The Public Local Laws of Calvert County  
 Section 5–102  
 Article 5 – Public Local Laws of Maryland  
 (2002 Edition and July 2014 Supplement, as amended)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article 5 – Calvert County**

5–102.

(a) **(1)** [At a public hearing held on the] **ON OR BEFORE** A date set by the **COUNTY** Commissioners, each county department, agency, or board receiving county funds shall submit to the County Commissioners and to the Director of [Administration and] Finance **AND BUDGET, OR THE DIRECTOR’S DESIGNEE**, an itemized budget request for all funds requested for the next fiscal year **FOR COMPILATION INTO THE STAFF–RECOMMENDED BUDGET.**

**(2) (1)** The **COUNTY** Commissioners shall **CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE STAFF–RECOMMENDED BUDGET AND** publish notice of the time and place of this hearing in at least two county newspapers for at least two weeks before the hearing is held.

**(II) AT LEAST ONE OF THE NEWSPAPERS SHALL BE A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION IN THE COUNTY.**

**(3)** At [this] **THE** hearing **ON THE STAFF-RECOMMENDED BUDGET**, county citizens may present their views on budget requests and funding levels.

**(b) (1)** [Before] **AFTER THE HEARING ON THE STAFF-RECOMMENDED BUDGET AND BEFORE** taking final action [on a proposed] **TO ADOPT A** budget, the County Commissioners shall [hold a] **CONDUCT A SECOND** public hearing to permit county residents to comment on [it] **THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' BUDGET**.

**(2) (I)** The **COUNTY** Commissioners shall publish notice of the time and place of the hearing **ON THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' BUDGET** in at least two county newspapers for at least two weeks before the hearing is held.

**(II) AT LEAST ONE OF THE NEWSPAPERS SHALL BE A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION IN THE COUNTY.**

**(3)** [The] **AFTER HOLDING THE RECORD OPEN FOR AT LEAST 10 DAYS AFTER THE HEARING ON THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' BUDGET, THE** final **COUNTY** budget shall be adopted by a resolution approved by the **COUNTY** Commissioners.

**(c) (1)** [By the time of the first notice of] **AT LEAST 1 WEEK BEFORE EACH** public hearing **ON A PROPOSED COUNTY BUDGET UNDER THIS SECTION**, the proposed county budget shall be filed with the clerk of the County Commissioners and be available for public inspection **ON THE COUNTY'S WEB SITE**.

**(2)** One copy **OF EACH PROPOSED COUNTY BUDGET** shall be supplied to each newspaper of general circulation in the county and to each branch of the county library and copies shall be made available to the public at or below cost.

**SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED,** That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2015.

**Approved by the Governor, May 12, 2015.**