

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2019 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader

House Bill 221  
Economic Matters

(Prince George's County Delegation)

Finance

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Prince George's County - Utility Services - Master Meters Task Force -  
Extension  
PG 407-19

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This bill extends the Task Force on the Use of Master Meters for Utility Services in Prince George's County, and its associated reporting deadline, by one year. Under the bill, the task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the members of the Prince George's County Delegation by December 31, 2019. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2019, and the task force terminates June 30, 2020.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Any expense reimbursements for task force members are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

**Local Effect:** Any costs associated with continuing the task force are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources. Prince George's County advises that it has been staffing the task force with existing budgeted resources.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law/Background:** Chapter 128 of 2018 established the Task Force on the Use of Master Meters for Utility Services in Prince George's County. The task force must study issues related to the use of master meters in residential multiple occupancy buildings that are constructed or converted to condominium or cooperative ownership in Prince George's County. The task force must also study and make recommendations related to the amount

of money that is owed by unit owners in such situations. The Office of Community Relations, Common Ownership Communities of Prince George's County must provide staff for the task force. A member of the task force may not receive compensation as a member of the task force but is entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses. The task force's final report was due December 31, 2018, but as of January 27, 2019, had not been submitted.

In addition to establishing the task force, Chapter 128 prohibited new authorizations for master meters in residential multiple occupancy units constructed for, or converted to, condominium or cooperative ownership in Prince George's County. This addressed an issue that can arise in condominiums, which are individually owned, if utility service is billed by a master meter. In such a case, a master meter bill may be due, but one or more occupancy units may have not paid. A recent case involving such a situation led to the eviction of residents at Lynnhill Condominiums in Prince George's County.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Prince George's County; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 28, 2019  
an/lgc Third Reader - February 20, 2019

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