

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2022 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader - Revised**

House Bill 1057

(Prince George's County Delegation)

Environment and Transportation

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**Prince George's County - Recreation Blue Ribbon Workgroup**  
**PG 406-22**

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This emergency bill establishes the Prince George's County Recreation Blue Ribbon Workgroup for the purpose of conducting a study and providing recommendations to the Prince George's County Council regarding several aspects of providing recreational services in the county. Workgroup recommendations are due to the Prince George's County Council by April 11, 2023.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None.

**Local Effect:** The Prince George's County Government can staff the workgroup and conduct the required study with existing resources. The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) can assist the workgroup and provide any related information with existing resources.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Bill Summary:** The bill establishes the Prince George's County Recreation Blue Ribbon Workgroup for the purpose of conducting a study and providing recommendations to the Prince George's County Council.

### *Workgroup Membership*

The workgroup is comprised of 15 members including (1) two members appointed by the Prince George's County House Delegation; (2) two members appointed by the Prince George's County Senate Delegation; (3) two members appointed by the county executive; (4) two members appointed by the county council; (5) the president of the Prince George's County Boys and Girls Club; (6) one representative of the Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation designated by the director of the department; (7) the Prince George's County Parks and Recreation Youth and Countywide Sports Division Chief; (8) one representative of the UFCW Local 1994 Municipal and County Government Employees Organization appointed by the county executive; (9) the chief executive officer of the Prince George's County Arts and Humanities Council; (10) one representative of the National Recreation and Park Association appointed by the county council; and (11) one representative of the Prince George's County Aging and Disabilities Services Division appointed by the county executive.

### *Workgroup Responsibilities*

The workgroup is required to submit to the Prince George's County Council, by April 11, 2023, their recommendations on (1) improving access to the existing youth sports, arts, and recreation programming available to residents of the county; (2) improving access to publicly owned facilities, fields, and gyms for county-based organizations; (3) improving access to opportunities for county-based minority-owned and small businesses in procurements related to the delivery of recreation projects and programs; (4) the potential costs, benefits, advantages, and disadvantages of transferring the responsibility for specific operations of the existing youths sports, arts, and recreation functions from M-NCPPC to a different entity (an authority, county agency, or any other entity); and (5) how a different entity could fund the costs of any actuarial deficiency or other adverse financial consequence caused to the plan, participants, or beneficiaries of any existing employment benefit program, retirement plan, or other postemployment benefit provided by M-NCPPC in the event any employee who performed youth sports, arts, or recreation functions is transferred to the new entity.

### *Workgroup Recommendations*

The bill requires that all recommendations made by the workgroup must be affirmed with a majority vote of its membership during a public meeting. Each member of the workgroup may be qualified on the basis of knowledge and experience that is relevant to the purpose of the workgroup, as specified.

**Current Law:** The Prince George's County Planning Board is required to (1) provide an adequate and balanced program of recreation to serve the needs and interests of various age groups among the residents of the county; (2) offer a comprehensive youth sports

program that provides a variety of sports programming, leagues, and teams throughout the county; and (3) coordinate the program with M-NCPPC's park functions.

The county planning board may develop a recreation program that includes physical, social, mental, and creative opportunities that the county planning board considers appropriate to offer in:

- major recreation centers, playfields, athletic fields, playgrounds, tennis courts, baseball diamonds, swimming pools, golf courses, community centers, and social centers on publicly or privately owned land or buildings made available for these purposes or over which the county planning board has sole or joint jurisdiction; or
- land or buildings of a municipality or political subdivision in the county if the municipality or political subdivision requests the services of the county planning board.

The county planning board is authorized to contract with recreation or sports groups or associations to incorporate the activities of the groups or associations into the recreation program established by the county planning board.

#### *The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission*

M-NCPPC is a bi-county agency serving Montgomery and Prince George's counties that was empowered by the State in 1927 to acquire and administer a regional system of parks within the Maryland-Washington Metropolitan District and administer a general plan for the physical development of the area. In 1970, M-NCPPC became responsible for managing the Prince George's County public recreation program. M-NCPPC operates approximately 52,000 acres of parkland, trails, and open space in Montgomery and Prince George's counties, as well as a variety of facilities, including nature centers, community centers, historic sites, and sports venues. In Montgomery County, the county recreation programs are operated by the Montgomery County Department of Recreation.

#### *Existing Funding for Recreation Programs in Prince George's County*

M-NCPPC funds and provides the county recreation program in Prince George's County. Local property taxes account for the vast majority (90.1%) of the total revenues for the county recreation program. M-NCPPC imposes a 7.8 cent real property tax rate (19.5 cent personal property tax rate) throughout the entire county that will generate approximately \$89.3 million in revenues. Total funding for the Prince George's County Recreation Fund is budgeted at \$99.1 million in fiscal 2022. **Exhibit 1** provides a summary of expenditures for the Prince George's County Recreation Fund over a three-year period.

**Exhibit 1**  
**Prince George's County Recreation Fund**  
**Summary of Expenditures by Division**

	<b>FY 2020</b> <b><u>Actual</u></b>	<b>FY 2021</b> <b><u>Budget</u></b>	<b>FY 2022</b> <b><u>Adopted</u></b>
<b>Administration and Development</b>			
Maintenance-Development	\$784,847	\$1,128,175	\$1,106,418
Facility Operations - Deputy	515,054	733,903	617,369
Support Services	8,480,218	10,154,186	10,162,491
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$9,780,119</b>	<b>\$12,016,264</b>	<b>\$11,886,278</b>
<b>Facility Operations</b>			
Public Affairs and Marketing	\$738,211	\$1,017,835	\$1,002,967
Aquatics	10,676,685	12,081,094	11,532,374
Natural and Historic Resources	1,505,029	1,505,577	1,512,020
Arts and Cultural Heritage	4,059,887	4,410,851	4,416,317
Youth and Countywide Sports	2,247,408	4,365,918	4,353,556
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$19,227,220</b>	<b>\$23,381,275</b>	<b>\$22,817,234</b>
<b>Area Operations</b>			
Area Operations - Deputy	\$496,425	\$485,512	\$456,708
Special Programs	8,283,185	10,016,420	9,760,596
Northern Area Operations	6,892,186	7,972,090	8,044,870
Central Area Operations	6,559,072	7,352,942	7,362,769
Southern Area Operations	8,759,182	10,878,485	10,758,458
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$30,990,050</b>	<b>\$36,705,449</b>	<b>\$36,383,401</b>
<b>Total Expenditures - Division</b>	<b>\$59,997,389</b>	<b>\$72,102,988</b>	<b>\$71,086,913</b>
<b>Non-Departmental</b>			
Grants	\$4,219,295	\$5,117,621	\$6,377,065
Capital Project Fund	509,556	0	0
Enterprise Fund	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000
Budgetary Reserve	8,157,592	8,150,092	11,022,680
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$13,886,443</b>	<b>\$23,267,713</b>	<b>\$27,400,745</b>
<b>Total Fund Expenditures</b>	<b>\$86,502,532</b>	<b>\$99,639,201</b>	<b>\$102,910,958</b>

Source: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Prince George's County; Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission; Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 4, 2022  
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