



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

HB 980 (PG 416-21)
Delegate Barron
o/b/o County Executive,
County Council and
M-NCPPC

Prince George's County – Public Ethics
Definition Of Application

POSITION:

SUPPORT (AS AMENDED)

HB 980 (PG 416-21), supported by the Prince George's County Executive, the County Council and the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), seeks to clarify the applicability of the State Ethics provisions to a Countywide Zoning Map Amendment (CMA) process. Specifically, the bill would make clear that an application does not mean participation in adopting and approving a CMA recommended by the Planning Board and approved by the District Council, where the intent is to implement an approved General Plan by repealing and replacing all zoning categories.

The passage of the bill is necessary to give legal effect to the Countywide Zoning Ordinance Rewrite, the first legislative phase and \$6 million County taxpayer funded investment into planning and zoning to update the County's 50-year-old Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations. In 2018, after four years of M-NCPPC unprecedented public engagement process, including more than 400 public meetings, the Council engaged in its own year-long legislative process to deliberate the adoption of the Countywide Zoning Ordinance Rewrite. Shortly thereafter in 2019, Council and M-NCPPC commenced a Countywide public-notice campaign to initiate the CMA process, the second legislative phase, to adopt new zone classifications for all land in the County so that the Countywide Zoning Ordinance-Rewrite may take legal effect. But because of the onset on the COVID-19 pandemic and an ambiguity in the State Ethics Law Provisions for Prince George's County, the CMA process had to be postponed for the health, safety and welfare of the public and also to seek this legislative clarification.

The County Council believes this bill is necessary to implement the 2014 adopted Prince George's County's General Plan – entitled *Plan Prince George's 2035*, which defined the long-range policies for land use, economic prosperity, transportation, environment, housing and neighborhoods, historic preservation, arts and public facilities in the County. The County Council also believes that without the passage of this bill, the County will not be able to finalize a 6-year long legislative process, which commenced in 2014, to allow the County's Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances to take effect. Included in this position statement is a timeline the actions taken by the County to commence and advance the Countywide Zoning Ordinance Rewrite for the Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations.

The bill was amended by the Prince George's County House Delegation to include a sunset provision. For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council **SUPPORTS (AS AMENDED) HB 980 (PG 416-21)** and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of this legislation.

Prepared by: County Council Staff (Revised)

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