



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700 County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

HB 750

Delegate Vanessa
Atterbeary
(Judiciary Committee)

Office of the Attorney General – Right to Counsel
In Immigration Proceedings Coordinator

POSITION:

SUPPORT

HB 750 – Office of the Attorney General - Right to Counsel in Immigration Proceedings Coordinator – This bill establishes a right to counsel in immigration proceedings by establishing the Right to Counsel in Immigration Proceedings Coordinator appointed by the Attorney General. The bill establishes a right to counsel for any covered individual detained in immigration detention in Maryland or in another state and is a Maryland resident. The Coordinator is to organize and direct services and resources in order to provide all covered individuals with access to legal representation in all covered proceedings. Covered proceedings are defined as a judicial or administrative proceeding where the covered individual is subject to removal from the United States. This includes Habeas corpus proceedings, federal appeals or any other legal matters affecting deportation. The extent feasible, the representation should begin no later than the time of the individual's first scheduled appearance in a covered proceeding.

The Prince George's County Council has long championed comprehensive immigration reform that addresses the rights of our residents, both citizens and non-citizens alike. This bill will ensure that a dedicated professional in the Office of the Attorney General will have direct responsibility to coordinate with the appropriate legal services to provide immigrants facing removal from the United States the counsel they need in these proceedings. It is well understood that immigrants face far better outcomes when legal presentation is available to them as they begin these proceedings.

For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council **SUPPORTS HB 750** and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of its position.

Prepared by: Carrington & Associates, LLC
On behalf of Prince George's County Council

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