



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

ROCKVILLE: 240-777-6550

ANNAPOLIS: 240-777-8270

HB 397

DATE: February 15, 2022

SPONSOR: Prince George's County Delegation and Montgomery County Delegation

ASSIGNED TO: Environment and Transportation

CONTACT PERSON: Kathleen Boucher (kathleen.boucher@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: Support

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission – Montgomery County – County Council and District Council – Voting Thresholds PG/MC 100-22

This bill changes the voting thresholds for the County Council and District Council (County Council serves as District Council under State law (Regional District Act) for purpose of land use and zoning decisions) that will apply to actions taken on or after December 5, 2022, when the County Council will consist of 11, rather than 9, Councilmembers.

The voting threshold for appointing a Commissioner over the disapproval of the County Executive is changed from 7 out of 9 Councilmembers (at least 3/4 of Council) to 9 out of 11 Councilmembers (at least 3/4 of Council). The voting thresholds for the following actions are changed from 6 out of 8 Councilmembers (at least 2/3 of Council) to 8 out of 11 Councilmembers (at least 2/3 of Council): (1) designate a Chair or Vice-Chair over the disapproval of the County Executive; (2) authorize a supplementary salary for the Commissioner designated to serve on a full-time basis over the disapproval of the County Executive; (3) reapprove or restore any budget item over the disapproval of the County Executive; (4) amend an approved 6-year capital improvements program; (5) approve a zoning classification not shown as appropriate or suitable in the text or on the land use map of an approved master plan; and (6) enactment of a subdivision regulation or amendment over the disapproval of the County Executive. The voting threshold for approval of a zoning reclassification that is shown as appropriate or suitable in the text or on the land use map of an approved master plan or that was created after the District Council approved a master plan is changed from 5 out of 9 (majority) to 6 out of 11 (majority).

The County supports this bill because it maintains the current proportional voting thresholds and respectfully requests that the Environment and Transportation Committee give the bill a favorable report.