



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Marc Elrich
County Executive

March 4, 2022

TO: The Honorable Kumar P. Barve
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Marc Elrich
County Executive

RE: House Bill 1059, *Bicounty Commissions – Ethics – Certification of Compliance PG/MC 103-22*, Support

I am writing to express my support for House Bill 1059, *Bicounty Commissions – Ethics – Certification of Compliance PG/MC 103-22*. The State ethics law currently requires a bicounty commission to adopt regulations relating to conflicts of interest of its employees, financial disclosure by its employees, and lobbying of the commission that are substantially similar to provisions in the State ethics law that apply to State agencies. This bill requires each bicounty commission to annually certify to the State Ethics Commission that the commission has complied with those components of the State ethics law. The bill is modelled after an existing provision of State law that applies to counties and municipalities. The term “bicounty commission” includes the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, and the Washington Suburban Transit Commission.

I believe that it is appropriate for bicounty agencies to comply with the same certification requirement that are currently applicable to counties and municipalities and respectfully request that the Environment and Transportation Committee give the bill a favorable report.

cc: Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee