



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: House Bill 892 – Environment - Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program - Funding for Overburdened Communities

SPONSOR: Delegate Ivey

HEARING DATE: March 9, 2023

COMMITTEE: Environment and Transportation

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 892 – Environment - Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program - Funding for Overburdened Communities**, which requires a percentage of funding from the Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program to be used for projects located in or directly benefitting census tracts with an EJ Score of .76 or greater. It also requires an allocation of \$20,000,000 for this program in the annual State budget for FY2025 and each year thereafter.

HB 892 proposes to direct at least 40% of annual funding for the Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program to projects in or directly benefitting census tracts with an EJ Score of .76 or higher. Each such census tract is home to a majority minority population and to a higher-than-average number of low to moderate income households. In Prince George's County, census tracts with an EJ score of 0.76 and higher tend to be inside the Beltway where our older, urbanized communities are located. Climate change will increase severity of wet weather events and give rise to more frequent short duration, intense rainstorms. Flooding, especially in urbanized communities, will become more frequent and severe. Stormwater infrastructure, buildings and dwellings will increasingly be in harms way from flooding as our climate changes.

HB 892 will increase the amount of funding available to local jurisdictions to support flood control capital projects, watershed studies, acquisition of flood damaged dwellings etc. It will also direct 40% of the annual funding for the Comprehensive Flood Management Grant Program to communities that are most in need of financial assistance and more likely to be at risk of harm from severe weather events due to

proximity to flooding sources, presence of aging infrastructure and decades of minimal, if any, public investment in flood mitigation and remediation.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 892** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.