



Position Statement

Bill: SB0274 – Charter Counties – Comprehensive Plans – Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing

Position: Informational

Date: January 25, 2024

Contact: Debra Borden, General Counsel

Jordan Baucum Colbert, Government Affairs Liaison

Dear Chair Brian J. Feldman and Vice Chair Cheryl C. Kagan,

The Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC or the “Commission”) has not voted on an official position yet, but they have directed staff to prepare a statement in support of this bill. Therefore, the Commission respectfully requests the Education, Energy and Environment Committee consider this information and include it in the record.

- We are supportive of the idea of adding an affirmatively furthering fair housing analysis to Prince George’s and Montgomery Planning’s master plans.
- We believe that using our comprehensive and master plans to assess fair housing builds on the work we’ve done regionally, through the COG Regional Fair Housing Plan, as well as our new General Plan, *Thrive Montgomery 2050*. *Thrive Montgomery 2050* calls on Montgomery County to expand housing access through the elimination of fair housing barriers and enforcement of fair housing laws to protect residents from discrimination, and our master plans are one tool we have to help meet this goal. *Plan Prince George’s 2035* is Prince George’s County’s General Plan. *Plan Prince George’s 2035* calls on Prince George’s County to provide housing to meet the County’s growing and changing population and to build well-designed, mixed-income housing in targeted development areas with easy access to jobs.
- We look forward to working with both the Maryland Department of Planning and Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development to better understand what implementation looks like, and how we can use our existing master planning

processes like our existing conditions analysis and our housing chapters to incorporate affirmatively furthering fair housing analysis.

We respectfully request that the committee consider this information and include it in the record.