



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700 County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

**HB 501/SB 522 - Charter Counties Enforcement of Local Laws
(Environment and Transportation; Education, Energy and Environment)
Sponsors: Delegate Fennell and Senator Augustine**

POSITION:

SUPPORT

HB-501/SB-522 – This bill will increase the maximum amount of a civil or criminal fine that a charter county may impose. With the passage of this bill, counties will be able to enforce local laws enacted by the county with greater effect. Counties and local municipalities have not seen an increase in their ability to charge more than \$1,000 since this law was passed in the 1990's. This bill will allow counties to fine property owners with dilapidated housing, homeowners who conduct illegal "for profit" house parties, and violators who illegally dump boats and other large items on our streets. Prince George's County residents are seeking compliance on neighborhood quality of life concerns. Violators have less incentive to comply when the fine is perceived as the cost of doing business. The county also supports a technical amendment that was offered to ensure the bill will be clearly enforceable within all sections of the Local Government Code.

For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council **SUPPORTS HB 501/SB 522** and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of its position.

Prepared by: Bellamy Genn Group, LLC
On behalf of Prince George's County Council