

MALCOLM AUGUSTINE  
*Legislative District 47*  
Prince George's County

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Executive Nominations Committee

Education, Energy and the  
Environment Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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March 29, 2024

## Senate Bill 659 - Prince George's Gateway Development Authority – Modifications

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to present **Senate Bill 659 - Prince George's Gateway Development Authority – Modifications**, which aims to enhance the capabilities of the Prince George's Gateway Development Authority, a cause I am deeply passionate about.

I want to highlight the importance of regular meetings within the authority. By increasing the mandated frequency to at least four times per year, we are ensuring consistent progress and vigilant oversight on our comprehensive neighborhood revitalization plan. Regular meetings are the backbone of effective planning, accountability, and responsiveness to the diverse needs of our community. In recognizing the value of collaboration, I am particularly pleased with the support extended by the Department of Housing and Community Development. The provision mandating staff support in consultation with the department is a strategic move to harness their expertise and resources, thereby augmenting the authority's effectiveness. This collaborative effort guarantees that our initiatives align with state-level objectives and adhere to best practices in urban development.

Our unwavering focus remains on the holistic betterment of residents, housing, neighborhoods, economic development, and transportation. This legislative proposal reinforces our commitment to comprehensive community upliftment. Looking at the broader picture, this bill has far-reaching implications for economic development. It strategically positions Prince George's County as an attractive gateway for neighboring areas, including Washington, D.C., thereby elevating our regional competitiveness. The emphasis on housing and neighborhood initiatives directly impacts the well-being of our community members, rendering Prince George's County an even more desirable place to live and work. The authority's diligent work is poised to address critical needs, supporting the beautification and revitalization of our neighborhoods.

The proposed amendment aims to designate the staffing responsibilities to the Prince George's County Redevelopment Authority. This entity possesses a wealth of redevelopment experience and expertise specifically tailored to the needs of Prince George's County. This strategic decision ensures that the Authority's valuable knowledge will play a crucial role in formulating and executing the comprehensive plan for the targeted area focused on the development of housing and working spaces for artists. This alignment is anticipated to enhance the effectiveness and precision of the redevelopment efforts, fostering a vibrant and conducive environment for artistic expression and creativity within the community.

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I urge your support for this vital legislative measure, as it paves the way for a brighter future for Prince George's County and its residents. Together, we can build a stronger, more vibrant community that stands as a testament to our shared commitment to progress and upliftment.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. I urge the committee to give a **favorable** report for **Senate Bill 659 - Prince George's Gateway Development Authority – Modifications.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Malcolm Augustine".

Senator Malcolm Augustine