



POSITION STATEMENT

Bill: HB 1003 Montgomery County- Clerk of the Court- Subdivision Plat Recordation (PG/MC 110-24)

Position: Support

Date: March 8, 2024

Contact: Debra Borden, General Counsel

Jordan Baucum Colbert, Government Affairs Liaison

Dear Chair Marc Korman and Vice Chair Regina T. Boyce,

The Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC or “the Commission”) initially voted to support this bill with amendments. The proposed amendments have been made and the current bill reflects the Board’s recommendations. The Commission respectfully requests the Environment and Transportation Committee to consider this information and include it in the record.

What this Bill Does. This bill authorizes a plat in Montgomery County to be drawn, recorded, and maintained in electronic form in a manner approved by the State Archivist.

Background. A Plat is a plan drawing prepared by a licensed land surveyor that depicts an approved subdivision or assemblage of land and associated easements or restrictions. Plats must be recorded before any new lots can be sold or building permits issued. Currently, state law requires plats to be on mylar preserved in a book by the State Archivist. This requires circulation of the actual mylar drawing to various parties and government agencies for signature, which can take several weeks or more.

Use of Digital Signatures. During this summer’s Montgomery County Development Review Process Workgroup (Workgroup) discussions, members voted in support of adding specific language in State law that allows for use of digital signatures on plats and allow for archiving of digital plats. Using digital signatures on plats could save time, help increase efficiency and productivity.

For these reasons, the Commission requests a favorable vote in support of HB 1003.