

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: House Bill 1519 – Prior Authorizations of State Debt

- Alterations

SPONSOR: Delegate Mark S. Chang

HEARING DATE: March 11, 2025 Click or tap to enter a date.

COMMITTEES: House Appropriations Committee

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

The Office of the Acting Prince George's County Executive SUPPORTS WITH AMENDMENTS House Bill 1519, proposing essential amendments to prior state debt authorizations, including changes to grantee names, modifications of authorized grant uses, and extensions of grant termination dates. These adjustments are critical for the successful completion of various projects across the state. Regretfully, the current proposal eliminates a previously approved project for which project funds were already expanded, and an unpaid reimbursement is expected.

The sponsor's proposed amendment eliminates an expected reimbursement of \$2.7 million for *Miscellaneous Grant Programs for Prince George's County Public High School Athletic Facilities* by removing the project from the authorized list, rendering it ineligible for state reimbursement. However, as the grantee, the County already performed the work through the Prince George's County Public Schools system and must now complete the required grant reporting process to verify project completion and qualify for project reimbursement from the State, not to exceed \$2.7 million.

The County requests amending HB 1519 to extend the period through which the project, Miscellaneous Grant Programs for Prince George's County Public High School Athletic Facilities, will remain active, thereby extending the period for reimbursement. To accomplish this, the following language should be inserted on page 8, in line 29, following "schools": "NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 1(7) OF THIS ACT, THIS AUTHORIZATION MAY NOT TERMINATE PRIOR TO JUNE 1, 2032."; and in line 30, strike both brackets; and in line 31, strike "0".

Including this amendment would ensure that Prince George's County is reimbursed for the funds already expended in good faith, thereby upholding the state's commitment to supporting local education initiatives.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Acting Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 1519 WITH AMENDMENTS** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.