



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND**

KATE STEWART
PRESIDENT
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL

March 6, 2025

TO: The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Kate Stewart
President, Montgomery County Council

RE: House Bill 1064, *Montgomery County Planning Board and Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Open Meetings – Live Streaming Requirement MC/PG 101-25*

Support with Amendments

I am writing on behalf of the Montgomery County Council to express our support for House Bill 1064, *Montgomery County Planning Board and Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission – Open Meetings – Live Streaming Requirement MC/PG 101-25*, with the amendments adopted by the Montgomery County House Delegation.

As introduced, the bill amends State law governing open meetings and live streaming of audio and video for meetings of the Montgomery County Planning Board (Planning Board) and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC Water). Under current law, both entities are required to stream live video or live teleconference audio of open meetings of the Board. The bill makes that requirement applicable only if the meeting is held at the headquarters of the Planning Board or WSSC Water or at a location where the Planning Board or WSSC Water held at least 10 meetings during the immediately preceding calendar year. The current live streaming requirement is more stringent than those that apply to other entities under the Open Meetings Act, and all other requirements of the Open Meetings Act would still apply to the Planning Board and WSSC Water. The 10 meetings requirement mirrors the language of § 3-307(g) of the General Provisions Article, which applies to the Maryland Transportation Authority.

The Montgomery County House Delegation voted to support this bill with amendments that narrow the scope of the bill to a project site visit or educational field tour if no organizational

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business is conducted. The amended bill is intended to allow all Planning Board members or all WSSC Water Commissioners to conduct project site visits or educational site visits in locations where live streaming is difficult or not feasible. All other provisions of the Open Meetings Act still apply, including advance notice and preparation and approval of minutes.

We respectfully request that the Environment and Transportation Committee give this bill a favorable report as amended by the Montgomery County House Delegation.

cc: Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee