



## **POSITION STATEMENT**

**Bill:** HB 1247 Prince George’s County – Tax Increment Financing – Extraordinary Development District – Alterations

**Position:** Support

**Date:** April 1, 2026

**Contact:** Michael Aniton, Acting General Counsel

Jordan Baucum Colbert, Senior Government Affairs Analyst

Dear Chair Guy Guzzone,

The Prince George’s County Planning Board has voted to support this bill.

**What the Bil Does.** This bill alters the definition of “extraordinary development district” for the purpose of provisions of law governing tax increment financing to include a certain immersive entertainment venue; expanding the purposes for which bond proceeds may be used by Prince George’s County or the revenue authority of Prince George’s County to include the acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation of an immersive entertainment venue in an extraordinary development district; authorizing the Maryland–National Capital Park and Planning Commission to enter into a certain agreement that pledges certain taxes as security for bonds issued by Prince George’s County contingent on the adoption of certain resolutions.

**Increased Economic Development.** In efforts to increase economic development in Prince George’s County, the National Harbor will add a new landmark to its skyline, the second Sphere in the U.S. and would be the only one on the East Coast.

The proposed National Harbor venue would be the first smaller-scale Sphere, with a capacity of 6,000 seats. Smaller-scale Spheres would feature an Exosphere – the exterior LED display of Sphere that showcases both artistic and branded content and reaches audiences globally. The venue would also feature a 16K x 16K interior display plane – the world’s highest-resolution LED screen.

All of Sphere's advanced technologies would be incorporated, including Sphere Immersive Sound, as well as haptic seating and 4D environmental effects.

This major economic development contributes to the creation of jobs, better serves, and fosters overall growth in Maryland. Therefore, we urge this committee to vote favorably on this bill.