

UPDATED FINAL HB 1247 PGC TIF– Extraordinary Devel

Uploaded by: Darryl Barnes

Position: FAV



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.

HB 1247_Prince George's County - Tax Increment Fin

Uploaded by: Harry Coker

Position: FAV



Wes Moore | Governor
Aruna Miller | Lt. Governor
Harry Coker, Jr. | Secretary of Commerce

DATE: April 1, 2026
BILL NO: House Bill 1247
BILL TITLE: Prince George's County - Tax Increment Financing - Extraordinary Development District - Alterations PG 425-25
COMMITTEE: Senate Budget and Taxation
POSITION: Support As Amended

The Maryland Department of Commerce (Commerce) supports as amended House Bill 1247 - Prince George's County - Tax Increment Financing - Extraordinary Development District - Alterations PG 425-25.

Bill Summary:

House Bill 1247 would change state law governing tax increment financing in Prince George's County by updating the definition of an "extraordinary development district" to include large immersive entertainment venues. It would also allow such venues to be eligible for certain tax increment financing uses. Additionally, it authorizes the Maryland–National Capital Park and Planning Commission to enter agreements to pledge certain taxes as security for bonds for these districts, providing more flexible financing tools to support major private-sector investment in these entertainment projects.

Rationale:

House Bill 1247 will provide the County with more flexible financing tools to attract and support major private-sector investment to promote economic development in the region. A large-scale entertainment venue in Prince George's County would be accessible to residents from across Maryland while also drawing visitors from out of state. This will expand tourism in the State and generate new revenue for the region.

Furthermore, these venues rely on local vendors, contractors and service providers, creating meaningful opportunities for Maryland businesses and workers. The investment in immersive entertainment venues is of statewide importance – it will generate long-term economic growth for all of Maryland by supporting tourism and generating significant opportunities for Maryland businesses and workers.

Commerce respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 1247 as amended.

Prince George's County Government's Position on HB

Uploaded by: Julian Perez

Position: FAV



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Aisha N. Braveboy
County Executive

April 1, 2026

HB1247
FAVORABLE

The Honorable Guy Guzzone
The Honorable Jim Rosapepe
Senate Budget and Taxation Committee
3 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Guzzone, Vice Chair Rosapepe and Members of the Budget Committee,

I write to you today to provide my strongest support for HB1247, which is being considered by your committee today. This legislation will provide adjustments to the tax increment financing (TIF) definitions that will allow us to move forward with one of the largest economic opportunities for Prince George's County and for Maryland: Sphere National Harbor. This is a project that was going to go somewhere in the DMV region and, working with Gov. Wes Moore, our team was able to develop the most attractive and fiscally responsible incentive packages to bring this exciting new project to our state.

As you may know, the TIF program was used successfully to create National Harbor originally. TIF has been used across Maryland. It's a responsible way to leverage future tax dollars, while increasing the value of a specific property or district. A detailed analysis completed by Ernst and Young economists, projects that Sphere National Harbor, once operational, should bring Prince George's County an estimated \$63 million a year in tax revenue – triple the seasonal revenue from the Commanders and Six Flags combined.

In addition to the direct tax revenue, that same detailed analysis projects construction will deliver \$1.6 billion to Prince George's County in direct and indirect economic benefits – and up to \$1.85 billion statewide. Once operational, Sphere National Harbor is expected to draw 2 million visitors each year, with an economic impact of \$1.3 billion in direct and indirect spending at Sphere, as well as local hotels, restaurants, stores and other County venues. That jumps to \$1.5 billion annually statewide.

For those wondering if this is a gamble or a solid investment, please know that we have done our due diligence. The original Sphere in Las Vegas is number one on Billboard's list of top-grossing arenas its size worldwide thanks to its current "Sphere Experience" of The Wizard of Oz. In the first five months of ticket sales, it sold over 2 million tickets, and the show will run through the end of 2026 – so likely will continue to break records. Sphere National Harbor will be 6,000 seats or about one-third the size of the Las Vegas venue.

We are confident the return on investment for Prince George's County and Maryland taxpayers is solid. Through the use of the Tax Increment Financing (TIF), Sphere National Harbor is going to bring new jobs and new opportunities for local, minority businesses to Prince George's County, Maryland and the region.

I respectfully ask for your support to move HB1247 forward. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Aisha Braveboy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "y".

Aisha N. Braveboy
Prince George's County Executive