



Senate Bill 1005 -- *Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission General Counsel and Powers of Local Planning Boards - Alterations*
Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
March 26, 2026
Oppose

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), the voice of business in Metro Maryland, opposes Senate Bill 1005 -- *Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission General Counsel and Powers of Local Planning Boards - Alterations*.

Senate Bill 1005 repeals the requirement that the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission appoint a general counsel and requires the Montgomery County Planning Board and the Prince George's County Planning Board to appoint legal counsel for Commission operations within each respective county.

The Chamber opposes Senate Bill 1005 due to its significant fiscal and operational impacts, many of which remain undefined and require additional time for evaluation. As a late-filed bill, it has not undergone the thorough review that a proposal of this scope and consequence warrants. The bill would require the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission to establish separate legal, human resources, information technology, contracting, and management functions for each county, an administratively complex and costly restructuring mandate whose full ramifications are still unclear.

For Montgomery County, the bill would introduce substantial new budget pressures at a time when the Fiscal Year 2027 operating budget has already been proposed, and all departments are being asked to reduce spending. Senate Bill 1005 would necessitate new positions, new systems, and new administrative processes that are neither funded nor planned for. Duplicating many functions currently shared between counties could significantly increase costs for taxpayers during an already challenging budget environment.

The bill also creates uncertainty for the business community. This abrupt reorganization would divert Commission leadership's attention away from economic development and toward managing a costly and disruptive transition. At a time when strengthening competitiveness and attracting employers are critical priorities, Senate Bill 1005 risks undermining economic stability and long-term growth.

For these reasons, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce opposes Senate Bill 1005 and respectfully requests an unfavorable report.

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC), on behalf of its members, champions the growth of business opportunities, strategic infrastructure investments, and a strong workforce to position Metro Maryland as a premier regional, national, and global business location. Established in 1959, MCCC is an independent, non-profit membership organization.

Brian Levine | Vice President of Government Affairs
Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce
51 Monroe Street | Suite 1800
Rockville, Maryland 20850
301-738-0015 | www.mcccmd.com