

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Chair, Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Maryland General Assembly
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
11 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Bill: SB 1005 Maryland–National Capital Park and Planning Commission General Counsel and Powers of Local Planning Boards – Alterations

POSITION: SUPPORT

Date: March 26, 2026

Dear Chair Feldman,

The Prince George's County Planning Board has voted to support this bill. During an Emergency Meeting held virtually on Friday, March 20, 2026, the Prince George's County Planning Board of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission voted 5-0 in support of Senate Bill 1005 Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission General Counsel and Powers of Local Planning Board – Alterations.

In a motion to the Planning Board, Vice Chair Manuel Geraldo said, “SB 1005 changes a century-old way of doing business, but I believe it does so for the right reasons. It gives Prince George's County the independence to put our residents first. We are not walking away from regional collaboration. We certainly are not walking away from our employees or our retirees. Our current merit employees are protected as well as our retirees. But at the same time, we make sure that our Commission remains strong. Our neighbors in Montgomery County may disagree, but in the final analysis I believe this bill keeps the Commission intact and our people protected. For those reasons, I move to support Senate Bill 1005.”

What this Bill Does. The purpose of this bill is to repeal the requirement that M-NCPPC appoint a general counsel. This bill requires the Montgomery County Planning Board to appoint a legal counsel for the Commission operations conducted primarily in Montgomery County. This bill requires the Prince George's County Planning Board to appoint a legal counsel for the Commission operations conducted primarily in Prince George's County. Legal Counsel appointed under this law, would serve at the pleasure of the appointing county planning board.

This bill also requires the Montgomery County Planning Board and the Prince George's County Planning Board to exercise direct authority and control over administrative functions for Commission operations within each respective county for: Human Resources , IT, Legal Services and most recently amended, Procurement.

The bill indicates that the Commission may use shared administrative services. The effective date for this bill is October 26, 2026

We believe the bill will provide greater alignment with Prince George's County priorities, faster hiring and workforce responsiveness, direct accountability to County leadership, tailored workforce solutions for County needs, the opportunity to reduce administrative bottlenecks, enhanced human resources support for department leadership, flexibility to innovate and improve processes, and the strengthening of County-level operational independence.

Therefore, we urge this committee to offer a favorable report on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darryl Barnes', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Darryl Barnes
Chairman
Prince George's County Planning Board
The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission