



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: Senate Bill 0853

SPONSOR: Senator Sydnor III

HEARING DATE: March 5, 2026

COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: **OPPOSE**

The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **OPPOSES Senate Bill 0853**, which prohibits certain individuals from entering into a nondisclosure agreement with a person involved in an economic development activity.

Non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) are essential to economic development in any jurisdiction. NDAs foster trust, protect intellectual property, and serve as a catalyst to local government obtaining sensitive, competitive information during negotiations. They enable businesses to share proprietary data with local government officials without fear of public leaks or exploitation by competitors.

If passed, Senate Bill 0853 would undoubtedly apply to, and stifle economic development in, Prince George's County because the proposed law applies to "any other entity or program governed by" the Economic Development Article. A substantial number of provisions in the Article govern County economic development programs, including but not limited to, County Payment in Lieu of Tax agreements and Tax Increment Financing, all of which the County's use to incentivize and attract new development within its borders.

Confidentiality is essential to attracting new development to Maryland's local governments, and Prince George's County in particular. Given the County's budget deficit as well as its unfortunate yet necessary imposition of one of the highest property tax rates in the region, increasing Prince George's County's commercial tax base is of critical importance at this time. Such increase in its commercial tax base cannot occur if NDAs between the County and prospective developers are disallowed.

In sum the County's continuing utilization of NDAs are necessary to foster strong relationships that ultimately create high-paying jobs, significant capital investments, and a thriving local economy.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive OPPOSES Senate Bill 0853 and asks for an UNFAVORABLE report.