

Introduction

MEMORANDUM

March 2, 2012

TO: County Council

FROM: Amanda Mihill, Legislative Attorney *A. Mihill*

SUBJECT: **Introduction:** Bill 10-12, Community Action Board - Membership

Bill 10-12, Human Rights and Civil Liberties – Community Action Board, sponsored by the Council President at the Request of the County Executive is scheduled to be introduced on March 6, 2012. A public hearing is tentatively scheduled for March 27, 2012 at 1:30 p.m.

Under current law, the Board must have between 27 and 39 members. Bill 10-12 would reduce the size of the Board to between 15 and 24 members. The Board would retain its current structure of 1/3 each low income, private organization and public official members.

This packet contains:

Bill 10-12

Legislative Request Report

Memo from County Executive

Circle #

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Bill No. 10-12
Concerning: Community Action Board –
Membership
Introduced: March 6, 2012
Expires: September 6, 2013
Enacted: _____
Executive: _____
Effective: _____
Sunset Date: None
Ch. _____, Laws of Mont. Co. _____

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

By: Council President at the Request of the County Executive

AN ACT to:

- (1) alter the size of the Community Action Board; and
- (2) generally amend County law regarding the Community Action Board

By amending

Montgomery County Code
Chapter 27, Human Rights and Civil Liberties
Section 27-41

Boldface	<i>Heading or defined term.</i>
<u>Underlining</u>	<i>Added to existing law by original bill.</i>
[Single boldface brackets]	<i>Deleted from existing law by original bill.</i>
<u>Double underlining</u>	<i>Added by amendment.</i>
[[Double boldface brackets]]	<i>Deleted from existing law or the bill by amendment.</i>
* * *	<i>Existing law unaffected by bill.</i>

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following Act:

1 **Sec. 1. Section 27-41 is amended as follows:**

2 **27-41. Creation and organization.**

3 * * *

4 (c) *Board—Composition; membership.*

5 (1) The Community Action Board consists of not more than [39]
6 24 nor less than [27] 15 members.

7 * * *

8 *Approved:*

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11 _____
Roger Berliner, President, County Council Date

12 *Approved:*

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15 _____
Isiah Leggett, County Executive Date

16 *This is a correct copy of Council action.*

17

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19 _____
Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council Date

LEGISLATIVE REQUEST REPORT

Bill 10-12

Community Action Board – Membership

DESCRIPTION: Reduce the size of the Board but retain its current structure of 1/3 each low income, private organization and public official members.

PROBLEM: It has become increasingly difficult to fill low income and private organization vacancies. Participation by low-income representatives is required to avoid jeopardizing Montgomery County's Head Start and Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) funding.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: To comply with the CSBG mandate to assure participation of its low-income representatives and to create a more efficient, balanced Board that can meet its voting quorum and focus on its mission rather than on continual recruitment to fill vacancies.

COORDINATION: Office of the County Executive

FISCAL IMPACT: To be requested.

ECONOMIC IMPACT: To be requested.

EVALUATION: To be requested.

EXPERIENCE ELSEWHERE: To be researched.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION: Beth Gochrach, Offices of the County Executive.

APPLICATION WITHIN MUNICIPALITIES: To be researched.

PENALTIES: Not applicable.



OFFICES OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

Timothy L. Firestine
Chief Administrative Officer

MEMORANDUM

January 26, 2012

TO: Roger Berliner, President
Montgomery County Council

FROM: Isiah Leggett, County Executive 

SUBJECT: Bill to Reduce Size of Community Action Board

I am submitting, for the Council's consideration, a bill that would reduce the number of members who serve on the Community Action Board. Under current law, the Board must contain between 27 and 39 members with one-third representation each from low-income, private organization, and public official members. The proposed bill would retain the one-third structure, but lower the range of membership to between 15 and 24 members.

This change is necessary because it has become increasingly difficult to fill vacancies in the Board's low-income and private organization membership. Low levels of participation by these constituencies jeopardizes Montgomery County's Head Start and Community Services Block Grant funding and the Board's ability to act swiftly on behalf of these programs.

A smaller Board will also allow the Board to spend more time on its core mission and less time recruiting to fill the many vacancies. The current size of the Board often makes it difficult for the Board to meet quorum requirements which also impedes its ability to do business.

Many other community action agencies function effectively with boards of the size proposed in this legislation. For example, our neighbors in Frederick County have a 15-member Board, while Fairfax County has a 30-member Board.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation.

Attachments

c: Uma S. Ahluwalia, Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Connie Latham, Special Assistant to the County Executive
Beth Gochrach, Office of the County Executive

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