



COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

APPROVED

Monday, January 25, 2021

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland convened via video conference at 12:35 P.M. on Monday, January 25, 2021.

PRESENT

Councilmember Tom Hucker, President
Councilmember Andrew Friedson
Councilmember Sidney Katz
Councilmember Craig Rice

Councilmember Gabe Albornoz, Vice President
Councilmember Evan Glass
Councilmember Nancy Navarro
Councilmember Hans Riemer

ABSENT

Councilmember Will Jawando

The President in the Chair.

(1) **DISCUSSION** - [State Legislative Program](#)

Participating in the discussion were Ms. Wenger, Director, and Ms. Samman, Office of Intergovernmental Relations (OIR); Ms. Frey, Department of Health and Human Services; and Ms. Chen, Legislative Analyst.

Received an update on the 2021 session of the Maryland General Assembly and reviewed several local bills. Ms. Wenger noted that the Senate will take up very quickly the Governor's recently introduced Relief Act of 2021, an emergency legislative package to provide more than \$1 billion in direct stimulus and tax relief. Ms. Wenger stated that she will have the text of President Biden's bill, *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021* (COVID-19 Stimulus Package), soon. Noted that even with the COVID-19 pandemic, the State budget, comparatively, is in good shape as there is almost a \$600 billion surplus from FY21 in addition to the Rainy Day Fund.

Discussed some of its limitations in HB97/SB66, Department of Housing and Community Development – Office of Digital Inclusion – Established (Digital Connectivity Act of 2021). Mr. Rice noted that he is working with the Maryland

Association of Counties (MACo) on a more expansive bill that will address equity and other issues such as affordability. He recommended supporting HB97/SB66 with amendments that address the bill's limitations. Supported, without objection, HB97/SB66 with amendments.

Supported, without objection, HB173/SB433, Community Colleges – State Funding Revision; HB517/SB319, Clean Energy Loan Program – Remediation and Resiliency; HB569/SB407; Electricity – Net Energy Metering – Limit; HB134/SB177, Business Regulation – Flavored Tobacco Products – Prohibition; and HB314/SB223, Plastic Bag Reduction Act.

Opposed, without objection, SB174, Property Tax Assessments – 5-Year Assessment Cycle, because of a likely negative impact on revenue due to longer periods between the reassessment cycles.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 P.M.

This is an accurate account of the meeting:



Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.
Clerk of the Council