



COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

APPROVED

Monday, February 27, 2023

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland convened in the Council Hearing Room, Stella B. Werner Council Office Building, Rockville, Maryland at 12:47 p.m. on Monday, February 27, 2023.

PRESENT

Councilmember Evan Glass, President
Councilmember Gabe Alborno
Councilmember Natali Fani-González
Councilmember Sidney Katz
Councilmember Kristin Mink

Councilmember Andrew Friedson, Vice President
Councilmember Marilyn Balcombe
Councilmember Will Jawando
Councilmember Dawn Luedtke
Councilmember Laurie-Anne Sayles

Councilmember Kate Stewart

The President in the Chair.

SUBJECT: Discussion - [State Legislative Program](#)

Reference: 2/27/23 staff report from Senior Legislative Attorney Wellons and Legislative Attorney McCartney-Green.

Participating in the discussion were Ms. Wenger, Director, Ms. Boucher, Deputy Director, Office of Intergovernmental Relations (OIR); Ms. Frey, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS); Ms. Taddei and Mr. Fitzgerald, Montgomery County Planning Department.

Supported without objection **HB 1125/SB 939, Transit - Grant Funding for Local Service - Alterations.**

Agreed to hold **HB 556/SB 516, Cannabis Reform**, noting that it is a large piece of legislation with massive implications for the County, and that the issues of zoning authority and revenue allocation for local jurisdictions requires additional clarification and definition. Councilmembers commented on the need for the County to have local regulatory authority, implementation concerns, and the cost to local jurisdictions. Ms. Stewart noted additional funding would be received through the Community Investment and Repair Fund and more information is needed on how this revenue would be distributed. Ms. Fani-González requested

staff track which counties are using zoning restrictions to avoid having cannabis-related businesses in their jurisdictions. Ms. Sayles requested information on what percentage of revenue other jurisdictions nationwide are receiving from cannabis-related taxation.

Supported without objection **HB 868/SB 873, Child Care Provider Stabilization Program - Established.**

Supported without objection the following four energy-related bills: **HB 718/SB590, Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard - Eligible Sources - Alterations (Reclaim Renewable Energy Act of 2023); HB 904/SB689, Public Utilities - Energy Efficiency and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions - Alterations and Requirements (Energy Savings Act); HB 908/SB 613, Electricity - Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Program; and HB 793/SB781, Offshore Wind Energy - State Goals and Procurement (Promoting Offshore Wind Energy Resources Act).** Mr. Glass noted that these bills all support the County's climate goals.

Discussed **HB 723/SB 526, Natural Resources - Forest Preservation and Retention** and received information from Planning staff on the purpose and goals of the State bill. Noted that the Transportation and Environment (TE) Committee is discussing this bill and the County bill at its meeting later today. Planning staff commented that they are working on amendments to bring the bill in line with the no net loss of forest amendment at the County level, and that it is hoped that forest retention banks will be continued. Councilmembers supported HB 723/SB526 with the understanding that more discussion will occur in today's TE Committee worksession.

Ms. Boucher reviewed amendments to local bill **MC/PG 105-23, Montgomery County - Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission - Commissioner Requirements and Open Meetings (Montgomery County Planning Trust and Transparency Act,** as shown on page 16 of the staff report. Supported without objection **MC/PG 105-23** as amended.

Took no position without objection on **MC/PG 109-23, Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission Members,** as shown on page 18 of the staff report. Ms. Wenger noted that the bill has not yet gone to the Senate delegation.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

This is a correct copy of Council action:



Judy Rupp
Clerk of the Council