



## COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

**APPROVED**

Monday, March 13, 2023

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland convened in the Council Hearing Room, Stella B. Werner Council Office Building, Rockville, Maryland at 12:31 p.m. on Monday, March 13, 2023.

### PRESENT

Councilmember Evan Glass, President  
Councilmember Gabe Albornoz  
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:** 3/13/23 staff report from Senior Legislative Attorney Wellons.

Participating in the discussion were Ms. Wenger, Director, Ms. Boucher, Deputy Director, Office of Intergovernmental Relations (OIR); and Ms. Sorrento, Planning Department staff.

Ms. Wenger provided an update on activities in the General Assembly and noted that the current status of bills of local interest is included in the staff packet.

Received an update on **HB 556/SB 516, Cannabis Reform** and recent amendments to the legislation relevant to local government, including proposed changes to distribution of sales tax revenues to local jurisdictions.

Councilmembers agreed that 1.5 percent of sales tax revenues, which would be distributed to counties and municipalities based on revenues generated, was not adequate to fund behavioral health and drug treatment programs, as currently specified in the legislation.

Ms. Luedtke commented on the need for clarification regarding the metric used for calculating the distribution of funds; Mr. Friedson requested a projection of administrative costs associated with the Bill's requirements.

Ms. Mink questioned whether the State has an oversight mechanism and whether it would be adequate, and expressed concern over the distribution of sales tax revenue funds to local jurisdictions based on the number of people charged with cannabis-related infractions in each jurisdiction.

Mr. Jawando questioned the zoning authority, and requested staff provide any case law pertaining to what is considered "unreasonable" or "unduly burdensome" zoning requirements and requested OIR staff forward any available information. He expressed the view that the County should have the authority to regulate the use of cannabis, similar to current restrictions on vaping and cigarette smoking.

Ms. Stewart suggested, and Councilmembers agreed, that a letter be sent from the Council to the State Senate expressing concerns associated with the Bill. OIR staff agreed to help draft the correspondence.

Received information from Ms. Boucher that language has not yet been received on possible amendments to **HB 723/SB 526, Natural Resources - Forest Preservation and Retention**, however Ms. Sorrento indicated it appears many of the County's concerns are being addressed in the revisions.

The meeting adjourned at 1:21 p.m.

This is a correct copy of Council action:



Judy Rupp  
Clerk of the Council