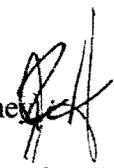


**MEMORANDUM**

June 5, 2015

TO: County Council

FROM: Josh Hamlin, Legislative Attorney 

SUBJECT: **Public Hearing:** Bill 22-15, Housing Policy – Policy Implementation – Income-Restricted Housing Website

Bill 22-15, Housing Policy – Policy Implementation – Income-Restricted Housing Website, sponsored by Lead Sponsor Councilmember Berliner and Co-Sponsors Councilmembers Leventhal, Navarro and Hucker was introduced on May 5, 2015. A Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee worksession is tentatively scheduled for July 27 at 2:00 p.m.

Bill 22-15 would require the Executive to compile and maintain a searchable list of income-restricted housing in the County on the appropriate website. Councilmember Berliner explained the purpose of this Bill in his April 28 memorandum to Councilmembers (See ©5).

This packet contains:	<u>Circle #</u>
Bill 22-15	1
Legislative Request Report	4
Councilmember Berliner Memo	5

Bill No. 22-15  
Concerning: Housing Policy – Policy  
Implementation – Income-Restricted  
Housing Website  
Revised: February 12, 2015 Draft No. 1  
Introduced: May 5, 2015  
Expires: November 5, 2016  
Enacted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Executive: \_\_\_\_\_  
Effective: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sunset Date: None  
Ch. \_\_\_\_\_, Laws of Mont. Co. \_\_\_\_\_

## COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

---

Lead Sponsor: Councilmember Berliner  
Co-Sponsors: Councilmembers Navarro and Hucker

---

**AN ACT** to:

- (1) require the Executive to compile and maintain a searchable list of income-restricted housing in the County on the appropriate website; and
- (2) generally amend the law governing the County Housing Policy.

By amending

Montgomery County Code  
Chapter 25B, Housing Policy  
Sections 25B-2 and 25B-3

<b>Boldface</b>	<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:*



28 **25B-3. Housing policy implementation.**

29 The following measures are intended to implement, in part, the housing policy  
30 of Montgomery County as that policy is amended from time to time, and to increase  
31 the number and proportion of affordable, including assisted-family, housing in the total  
32 housing supply of the County in order to provide a full range of housing choices,  
33 conveniently located throughout the County.

34 (a) The County Executive must:

35 \* \* \*

36 (14) Report on the distribution of affordable housing units throughout  
37 the County and the programs and activities that the County has  
38 engaged in to enhance the stock of affordable housing; [and]

39 (15) Compile and maintain a searchable list of all available income-  
40 restricted housing in the County on the appropriate website; and

41 (16) Explore the potential for private developers of employment centers  
42 and employers to play a more active role in producing affordable  
43 housing.

44 \* \* \*

45 *Approved:*

46

---

George Leventhal, President, County Council

Date

47 *Approved:*

48

---

Isiah Leggett, County Executive

Date

## LEGISLATIVE REQUEST REPORT

Bill 22-15

*Housing Policy – Policy Implementation – Income-Restricted Housing Website*

**DESCRIPTION:** Bill 22-15 would require the Executive to compile and maintain a searchable list of income-restricted housing in the County on the appropriate website.

**PROBLEM:** People seeking affordable housing in the County face a fragmented search process, and information currently available to them from the County is sometimes inaccurate or out of date.

**GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:** Assist in streamlining the search process for residents in need of affordable housing.

**COORDINATION:** Department of Housing and Community Affairs

**FISCAL IMPACT:** To be requested.

**ECONOMIC IMPACT:** To be requested.

**EVALUATION:** To be requested.

**EXPERIENCE ELSEWHERE:** To be researched.

**SOURCE OF INFORMATION:** Josh Hamlin, Legislative Attorney, 240-777-7892

**APPLICATION WITHIN MUNICIPALITIES:** n/a

**PENALTIES:** n/a



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL**  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

ROGER BERLINER  
COUNCILMEMBER  
DISTRICT 1

CHAIRMAN  
TRANSPORTATION, INFRASTRUCTURE  
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

**MEMORANDUM**

April 28, 2015

TO: Council Colleagues

FROM: Councilmember Roger Berliner

Re: Legislation to Create "One-Stop" Affordable Housing Website

Montgomery County has long been a national leader on the issue of affordable housing. And this is something that we and past Councils can take great pride in. Just a few days ago, our HHS and PHED Committees unanimously recommended approval for funding our county's Housing Initiative Fund by \$368,090 more than what we appropriated in last year's budget. Those dollars will go a long way to worthwhile projects and initiatives aimed to help those who need housing assistance.

However, despite that joint committee recommendation, we all know much more work remains to be done to expand and preserve our county's stock of affordable housing. And we can all also appreciate during this budget season, resources for more affordable housing – or a multitude of other worthy issues – are scarce. Because of that, I believe we should look at ways we can move the needle on this issue that would not cost us large sums of money. One such way I believe we can achieve that would be to assist in streamlining the search process for residents in need of affordable housing.

The attached legislation I am proposing would create a "one-stop" website that would list all of the income-restricted units in the county, both for rent and for purchase. The website would serve as a clearinghouse for those looking for affordable housing by providing information regarding eligibility requirements, as well as unit listings, locations, and contact information.

With long wait lists and information on affordable housing currently scattered over various websites, I feel that the least we could do for individuals and families looking for affordable housing – many who work several jobs and have families to care for and/or maybe new to the county and unfamiliar with all of its various affordable housing programs – is to simplify the search process in a consumer friendly way. Indeed, when I personally went on the DHCA's website for affordable rental units, the information listed was often years out of date. I shared both the legislation and my thoughts about needing a better website with our Director of DHCA, who readily agreed that it could and should be much better.

I respectfully ask for your support for this measure. Please let me know if you would like to be listed as a cosponsor of this legislation and, of course, if you have any questions. I will be introducing this legislation at Council session next Tuesday, May 5.