



November 12, 2024

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

TO: Jennifer A. Jenkins
Council Administrator

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THRU: Josh Hamlin 
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FROM: Alex Hirtle
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Policy Analysis and Fiscal Impact Statement
CB-109-2024 Solid Waste Advisory Commission Composition

CB-109-2024 (*proposed by:* Council Member Olson)

Assigned to the Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment Committee (TIEE)

AN ACT CONCERNING SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMISSION COMPOSITION for the purpose of amending the Solid Waste Advisory Commission by revising the number of appointed members serving on the Commission; reestablishing the process for appointments to the Commission; and generally related to the appointments of the Solid Waste Advisory Commission.

Fiscal Summary

Direct Impact:

Expenditures: No foreseen expenditure impact.

Revenues: No foreseen revenue impact.

Indirect Impact:

Potentially mixed indirect impact.

Legislative Summary:

CB-109-2024¹ was introduced on October 22nd, 2024 by Council Member Olson, and referred to the Transportation Infrastructure, Energy, and Environment Committee (TIEE). The legislation would amend the Solid Waste Advisory Commission by revising the number of appointed members serving on the Commission from nine (9) members to no less than nine (9) and no more than fifteen (15) members appointed by the County Executive and subject to confirmation by the County Council.

Current Law/Background:

CB-109-2024 would amend Sec. 21-125.03 of the County Code that currently designates the number of Commission members to nine (9). This Bill was initiated by a letter from the Commission's Chair sent to the TIEE Committee Chair stating that, through unanimous agreement, the Commission requests a composition of "9 to 15 members". The Commission's Chair cited an increase in activity over the last several years which has created a need for an increase in members.

To note, when the Commission was established through legislation (CB-084-2004²), the legislation called for fifteen (15) members, five (5) being selected from a list of appointees provided by the County Council. In 2022, the County Executive requested legislation to reduce the number of members to nine (9), citing to "...ensure we can recruit and retain a fully functioning body...". Quorum assurance was also mentioned in this letter.³ This legislative request (CB-025-2022⁴) passed.

Resource Personnel:

- Julio Murillo, Chief of Staff, Council District 3
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Discussion/Policy Analysis:

Solid waste management within our jurisdiction has been an ongoing challenge for a number of years. With the concern of Brown Station Landfill, the County's only remaining public sanitary landfill, being filled to capacity; enhancing recycling of waste at the Materials Recycling Facility; expansion of capturing organic waste, both curbside and through businesses; and ensuring public convenience centers are available to residents at multiple locations, these and other solid waste concerns require public input, and expertise from the Commission members to ensure the County

¹ [Prince George's County Council - CB-109-2024 \(legistar.com\)](#)

² [Prince George's County Council - CB-084-2004 \(legistar.com\)](#)

³ Letter sent from County Executive to Council Chair dated March 25th, 2022.

⁴ [Prince George's County Council - CB-025-2022 \(legistar.com\)](#)

is being served properly, and increasing its waste diversion percentage to minimize what ultimately goes into our only public sanitary landfill.

Providing the option to increase the number of members on the Solid Waste Advisory Commission due to the increased activity of this body may produce more effective communications, guidance, and advisement to the County Executive and County Council from the Commission. The most prominent concern of this legislation would be an increase of Commission members that would inhibit a fully functioning body- specifically, this could include bringing on more members who were not reasonably engaged with the duties of the Commission. Through their absence at meetings and other forums, this could prohibit a quorum from forming. Additionally, problems could mount if new members would not notably contribute to the many duties of the body, including review and recommendations of the Ten-Year Solid Waste Management Plan, recommendations on systematic programs and alternative methods for all aspects of solid waste (including storage, collection, transportation, and disposal), and recommendations of methods to ensure public involvement and development of educational programs. It should be duly noted that any new potential Commission members should be thoroughly vetted for the expertise they bring, their commitment to attend all meetings and other forums (short of emergencies or mandatory paid-job commitments), and be willing and able to commit the necessary time to volunteer on this very important advisement group.

Fiscal Impact:

- *Direct Impact*

Enactment of CB-109-2024 is not likely to have an adverse direct fiscal impact on the County. Members of this Commission are unpaid, and serve without stipend. Any reimbursements the County provides to members for expenses are expected to be minimal.

- *Indirect Impact*

Enactment of CB-109-2024 could have an indirect impact on the County. By increasing the resources of the Solid Waste Advisory Commission, through additional members, the Commission may be able to accomplish more. As noted, the Commission plays many roles in solid waste policy and process for the County- review, advisement, and public education, and others. All these components are more important than ever as the County strives to reduce the volume placed in the landfill, and utilized its diverted materials and possibly monetize them. Likewise, if an increase in the number of members inhibits the Commission from having quorums at its meetings, this would be an indirect adverse impact on our jurisdiction by inhibiting this body from moving forward with its important work.

- *Appropriated in the Current Fiscal Year Budget*

No.

Effective Date of Proposed Legislation:

The proposed Bill shall be effective forty-five (45) calendar days after it becomes law.

If you require additional information, or have questions about this fiscal impact statement, please reach out to me via phone or email.