

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND**

**2008 Legislative Session**

Bill No. CB-50-2008

Chapter No. 31

Proposed and Presented by Council Member Exum

Introduced by Council Members Exum and Bland

Co-Sponsors \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Introduction July 1, 2008

**CHARTER AMENDMENT**

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Amendment of Section 317, Charter of Prince George's County

3 For the purpose of proposing an amendment to Section 317 of the Charter of Prince George's  
4 County to provide clarification as to the prescribed scheduling and notice periods for legislation  
5 by the Clerk of the Council.

6 BY proposing an amendment to:

7 Section 317,

8 Charter of Prince George's County, Maryland.

9 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County,  
10 Maryland, that the following amendment to Section 317, Charter of Prince George's County,  
11 Maryland, is hereby proposed:

12 **Sec. 317. Enactment of Legislation.**

13 Every law of the County shall be styled: "Be it enacted by the County Council of Prince  
14 George's County, Maryland." The Council shall enact no law except by bill. The subject of  
15 every law shall be described in its title. Every law enacted by the Council, except the budget law  
16 and supplementary appropriation laws, shall embrace but one subject. No law or section of law  
17 shall be revived or amended by reference to its title only. A bill may be introduced by any  
18 member of the Council on any legislative session-day of the Council. On the introduction of any  
19 bill, a copy thereof and notice of the time and place of the public hearing on the bill shall be  
20 posted by the Clerk of the Council within [five] ten days on an official bulletin board to be set up  
21 by the Council in a public place and by any other such methods as the Council shall dictate.

1 Additional copies of the bill shall be made available to the public and to the press. Every copy of  
2 each bill shall bear the name of the member of the Council introducing it and the date it was  
3 introduced. Within ten days following the introduction of a bill the Clerk of the Council shall  
4 schedule and give public notice of a public hearing on the bill, which hearing shall not be less  
5 than fourteen days after its introduction. The Council may reject any bill on its introduction  
6 without a hearing by a majority vote of the members of the full Council. Such public notice shall  
7 be published in the County newspapers of record as defined in Section 1008 of this Charter. The  
8 public hearing may, but need not be, held on a legislative session-day and may be adjourned  
9 from time to time. After the public hearing, a bill may be finally enacted on a legislative session-  
10 day with or without amendment, except, that if a bill is amended before enactment and the  
11 amendment constitutes a change of substance, the bill shall not be enacted until it is reprinted or  
12 reproduced as amended and a public hearing shall be set thereon and proceedings had, as in the  
13 case of a newly introduced bill. Any bill not enacted by the last day of November of each year  
14 shall be considered to have failed. To meet a public emergency affecting the public health,  
15 safety, or welfare, the County may enact emergency bills. Every emergency bill shall be plainly  
16 designated as such and shall contain, after the enacting clause, a declaration stating that an  
17 emergency exists and describing the claimed emergency in clear and specific terms. The term  
18 "emergency bill" shall not include any measure creating or abolishing any office; changing the  
19 compensation, term, or duty of any officer; granting any franchise or special privilege; or  
20 creating any vested right or interest. No bill shall be enacted except by the affirmative vote of a  
21 majority of the full Council. No emergency bill shall be enacted except by an affirmative vote of  
22 two-thirds of the members of the full Council. In the event of an emergency declared by the  
23 Governor pursuant to provisions of State law, which emergency affects any part or all of Prince  
24 George's County, the Council may provide, by law, for modification of voting, quorum, and  
25 publication requirements consistent with State law, for matters relating to and necessary to  
26 respond to the emergency.

27 SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that a copy of this Act be transmitted to the  
28 County Executive for publication and that a copy also be transmitted to the Board of Supervisors  
29 of Elections for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters of this County at the 2008  
30 General Election pursuant to Section 1105 of the Charter.

31 SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the question of adoption of this proposed

1 Charter Amendment shall be submitted to the voters of the County at the General Election  
2 occurring on November 4, 2008, and shall be placed on the ballot in the following form:

3  
4 PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT

5 To clarify the prescribed scheduling and notice periods for legislation by  
6 the Clerk of the Council from five to ten days.

7  
8 Adopted this 23rd day of July, 2008, by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of  
9 the full County Council.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE  
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Samuel H. Dean  
Chairman

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Redis C. Floyd  
Clerk of the Council

KEY:  
Underscoring indicates language added to existing law.  
[Brackets] indicate language deleted from existing law.  
Asterisks \*\*\* indicate intervening existing Code provisions that remain unchanged.

CB-50-2008 (DR-2) WAS APPROVED AT REFERENDUM ON 11/4/2008

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12/4/2008