

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL  
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

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**Meeting Date:** 6/15/99**Reference No.:** CB-19-1999**Proposer:** Estep**Draft No.:** 1**Sponsors:** Estep**Item Title:** An Act revising the composition and duties of the Agricultural Resources Advisory Committee and providing for the appointment of members to the Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board

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**Drafter:** Ralph E. Grutzmacher  
Legislative Officer**Resource  
Personnel:** David G. Bourdon, Manager  
Prince George's Soil  
Conservation District

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**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:****Date Presented:** 3/16/99**Executive Action:** \_\_/\_\_/\_\_ US**Committee Referral:** 3/16/99 THE**Effective Date:** 9/20/99**Committee Action:** 06/10/99 FAV**Date Introduced:** 6/15/99**Public Hearing:** 7/13/99 1:30 P.M.**Council Action:** 7/13/99 ENACTED**Council Votes:** JE:A, DB:A, IG:A, TH:A, WM:-, RVR:A, AS:A, PS:A, MW:A**Pass/Fail:** P**Remarks:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** DATE: 6/10/99

Committee Vote: Favorable - 5-0. (In favor: Council members Gourdine, Shapiro, Maloney, Scott and Wilson).

The purpose of CB-19-1999 is to revise and update the code pertaining to two agricultural advisory committees: Agricultural Resources Advisory Committee and the Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board. The Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board is required by State.

David Bourdon, Soil Conservation, indicated that Agriculture is a significant industry/population in Prince George's County. There are approximately 900 to 1,000 farms in Prince George's

County with 60,000 acres being privately owned and 19,000 acres are governmental or nonprofit ownership. Horse farms are considered in the definition of agriculture farms and is a growing industry in Prince George's County.

The Agricultural Resources Advisory Committee would advise County officials on the implementation of state and local initiatives pertaining to development such as but not limited to rural legacy, nutrient management, and smart growth programs.

Prince George's County is the only County in the state with no land preservation districts. Revising the composition of the Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board would help educate and assist the farmers in the benefits of agricultural preservation. When land is sold for development, 2/3 of the taxes go to the state and the County holds 1/3 for 3 years. If the money is not used for land preservation within the 3 years it goes to the state.

Montgomery and Calvert counties have an approved local program and can keep 75% of the returns. Counties have more control over direct growth with local programs. However, the more direct route to land preservation is facilitated through the Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board.

The Legislative Officer and the Office of Law finds CB-19-1999 to be in proper legislative form. The Office of Audits and Investigations find that there should not be any negative fiscal impact on the County as a result of enacting CB-19-1999. The County Executive took no position.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION/FISCAL IMPACT**

**(Includes reason for proposal, as well as any unique statutory requirements)**

## **CODE INDEX TOPICS:**