

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2024 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CB-077-2024

Draft No.: 2

Committee: TIEE

Date: 10/10/2024

Action: FAV(A)

REPORT:

Committee Vote: Favorable as Amended, 3-0 (In Favor: Council Members Olson, Burroughs, and Dernoga).

The Committee convened on September 26, 2024, and again on October 10, 2024, to discuss CB-77-2024, which repeals and reenacts with amendments the validity, grandfathering, and notification provisions of the recently adopted update to the Woodland and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Ordinance (Subtitle 25, Division 2).

On September 26th, the Planning Department staff presented the details of the legislation, which provides clarity on:

- The grandfathering of previously approved Tree Conservation Plans (TCPs) and applications
- The expiration of exemption letters issued prior to July 1, 2024
- The expiration of previously approved applications that have not been implemented
- The definition of “implemented or implementation”
- The definition of TCP major and minor revisions
- Public notice requirements for TCP applications and the process for providing written and verbal comments

The legislation was held by the committee on 9/26 for additional staff review. On October 10th, staff presented a proposed Draft 2A, which included amendments requested by Planning staff and Council staff:

- Minor revisions include revisions requested for single lots or parcels (p 2, line 14)
- Minor revisions cannot reduce total woodland conservation in excess of five acres (p 2, line 21)
- Added notification of process for written comments for stand-alone TCP applications (p 3, line 26)
- To meet the definition of implementation, a grading permit must be issued for at least 25% of the land area within the associated TCP (p 4, line 25-26)
- Letters of Exemption which were valid as of 6/30/24 expire on 6/30/26 (p 5, line 28)

The Committee accepted all amendments included in Draft 2A. The Administration requested an additional amendment providing for a study of grandfathered projects that may be subject to an impact fee to ensure that funds are available to provide for retention and reforestation activities. The committee directed staff to prepare this amendment for the Council’s consideration prior to introduction (This amendment is provided as Amendment #1).

After discussion, the Committee voted favorably on CB-77-2024 as amended by a vote of 3-0.