

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2017 Legislative Session

Reference No.:	CB-64-2017
Draft No.:	2
Committee:	TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
Date:	October 10, 2017
Action:	FAV(A)

REPORT: October 10, 2017

Committee Vote: Favorable with Amendments, 4-0 (In favor: Council Members Turner, Franklin, Patterson and Taveras)

CB-64-2017 and CB-63-2017 are companion pieces of legislation that create a process for administrative hearings in the County. The creation of an administrative hearing board for specific housing code issues will lead to increased compliance with violations of the County's housing code. The two bills, taken in their entirety, would create a process for administration of citations, the process by which a hearing officer hears appeals of the citations, and empower the Nuisance Abatement Board to hear appeals from the decisions of the hearing officers.

The purpose of CB-64-2017 is to create a streamlined process for Code enforcement violations. The bill adds Division 15 to Subtitle 13 of the County Code. Division 15 establishes provisions for the Administrative Hearing Board. CB-64-2017 is modeled after Baltimore City's Environmental Control Board and is intended to reduce the District Court docket and send the minor property standard violation through the Administrative Hearing Board. Currently the process takes in excess of nine months to get to adjudication in Court. Pursuant to CB-64-2017, the Administrative Hearing Board would hear the minor property cases within ninety days.

Bradley Frome, Assistant Deputy Chief Administrative Officer spoke in support of the legislation and highlighted key provisions of the bill.

CB-64-2017 (DR-2) includes minor technical amendments offered by the Office of Law. The Office of Law indicated that the legislation is in proper legislative form and that there are no legal impediments to its enactment.

CB-64-2017 (DR-2) includes two amendments offered by AOBA. Ronald Wineholt with AOBA testified regarding CB-64-2017. Mr. Wineholt's testimony provided that issues need to be clarified and resolved to ensure that the code enforcement process also remains fair to property owners. The two amendments offered by AOBA that were voted favorably out of Committee are: (1) service is mailed to the property owner and manager in multifamily property, and (2) a correction order is used to make repairs and improvements to bring the dwelling unit or structure into Code compliance.