

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

Meeting Date: 10/28/97

Reference No.: CB-84-1997

Proposer: County Executive

Draft No.: 3

Sponsors: Del Giudice and Bailey

Item Title: An Act to establish the Revenue Authority of Prince George's County, to provide for its membership, exercise of powers, budget and financial procedures, and ethical matters, and generally relating to the Revenue Authority

Drafter: Barbara L. Holtz
Office of Law

Resource Personnel: Len Lucchi, County
Executive's Office

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

Date Presented:	7/22/97	Executive Action:	12/17/97	S
Committee Referral:	7/22/97	PSFM	Effective Date:	2/2/98
Committee Action:	9/4/97	HELD		
Committee Action:	10/16/97	FAV(A)		
Date Introduced:	10/28/97			
Pub. Hearing Date:	11/25/97	10:45 AM		

Council Action: 11/25/97 ENACTED

Council Votes: DB:A, SD:A, JE:A, IG:N, TH:A, WM:N, RVR:-, AS:A, MW:A

Pass/Fail: P

Remarks: _____

11/25/97 - Amended on the floor.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND FISCAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT Date: 10/16/97

Committee Vote: Favorable as amended, 3-2, (In favor: Wilson, Esteppe and Scott. Opposed: Gourdine and Maloney).

This bill will establish the Revenue Authority of Prince George's County to exercise its powers for projects within the boundary lines of the County which are devoted wholly or partially for public use and to stimulate employment and economic growth in the County.

The membership will consist of five (5) public members and two ex-officio members, appointed by the County Executive and approved by the County Council to staggered four year terms. Two of the public members will be designated by the County Executive to serve as chairman and vice chairman of the Authority and eligible to serve until the County Executive designates their replacement, even if their tenure extends beyond the four-year term. All members will be subject to the County ethics and financial disclosure laws.

The bill also provides for the Authority to appoint, with the consent of the County Executive, an executive director, secretary-treasurer and general counsel, as well as other employees as necessary. It contains the same budgetary procedures as the Council established for the Industrial Development Authority, including the requirement for a balanced budget. The County Council must approve the Revenue Authority's charter.

The Director of the Office of Legislative Affairs supports this bill. He said it is a major initiative of the County Executive to turn enterprise functions in the County from revenue drainers to revenue raisers. This legislation is authorized by the General Assembly and modeled after Revenue Authorities in operation in Anne Arundel, Baltimore and Montgomery County.

Council Member Maloney stated that he is opposed to this bill since the Revenue Authority is not placed under the control of the county charter. Also, this legislation opens up the likelihood of the hiring and promoting of personnel for non-merit reasons and the awarding of lucrative contracts, as well as establishing a second county government, at least regarding the rather broad activities of this Authority.

The enactment of CB-84-1997 will have no significant impact on the County's budget in the short term. The Authority created by this legislation will not necessarily require additional expenditures nor will it generate revenue for the County in the short term. The budget oversight responsibilities and the start-up efforts required of the Executive Branch will be accommodated by the current staff levels. If there are any budgetary implications for FY99, they will be delineated for the County Executive and the County Council within the budgetary deadlines in conjunction with the County's review of the M-NCPPC budget, as required in this bill.

During the worksession on 10/16/97, the bill was amended to include the following:

1. Capital Budget Review - Provides the Council with the ability to review and approve the Authority's Capital Budget and Capital Improvement Programs. This includes the ability to amend or delete individual projects. (pp 5, line 8 - pp 6, line 27).

2. Report - By January 15, 1999, the County Executive is requested to report to the Council regarding the activities and progress of the Authority. (pp 8, lines 11-14).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION/FISCAL IMPACT**(Includes reason for proposal, as well as any unique statutory requirements)**

This legislation will establish the Revenue Authority of Prince George's County, providing for its membership, exercise of powers, budget and financial procedures, and ethical matters, and generally relating to the Revenue Authority.

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