

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

2006 Legislative Session

Bill No. CB-59-2006

Chapter No. 26

Proposed and Presented by Council Member Dernoga

Introduced by Council Members Dernoga, Peters, Knotts, Dean, Exum, Harrington,

Campos and Bland

Date of Introduction June 20, 2006

CHARTER AMENDMENT

AN ACT concerning

Sections 317 and 411, Charter of Prince George's County

For the purpose of proposing amendments to Sections 317 and 411 of the Charter of Prince George's County to amend the prescribed scheduling and notice periods for legislation by the Clerk of the Council; to amend the time for presentation of enacted bills to the County Executive; and to authorize amendments to the County legislative process during an emergency declared by the Governor for matters relating to and responsive to the emergency.

BY proposing amendments to:

Sections 317 and 411,

Charter of Prince George's County, Maryland.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County, Maryland, that the following amendments to Sections 317 and 411 of the Charter of Prince George's County be and the same are hereby proposed:

Section 317. Enactment of Legislation.

Every law of the County shall be styled: "Be it enacted by the County Council of Prince George's County, Maryland." The Council shall enact no law except by bill. The subject of every law shall be described in its title. Every law enacted by the Council, except the budget law and supplementary appropriation laws, shall embrace but one subject. No law or section of law shall be revived or amended by reference to its title only. A bill may be introduced by any member of the Council on any legislative session-day of the Council. On the introduction of any bill, a copy thereof and notice of the time and place of the hearing on the bill shall be posted by

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

Section 411. Executive Veto.

Upon the enactment of any bill by the Council, with the exception of such measures made expressly exempt from the executive veto by this Charter, it shall be presented to the County

Executive within [five] ten days for his approval or disapproval. Within ten days after such presentation, he shall return any such bill to the Council with his approval endorsed thereon or with a statement, in writing, of his reasons for not approving the same. Upon approval by the County Executive, any such bill shall become law. Upon veto by the County Executive, his veto message shall be entered in the Journal of the Council, and, not later than at its next legislative session-day, the Council may reconsider the bill. If, upon reconsideration, two-thirds of the members of the full Council vote in the affirmative, the bill shall become law. Whenever the County Executive shall fail to return any such bill within ten days after the date of its presentation to him, the Clerk of the Council shall forthwith record the fact of such failure in the Journal, and such bill shall thereupon become law. In the case of budget and appropriation bills, the County Executive may disapprove or reduce individual items in such bills, except where precluded by State law. Each item or items not disapproved or reduced in a budget and appropriation bill shall become law, and each item or items disapproved or reduced in a budget and appropriation bill shall be subject to the same procedure as any other bill vetoed by the County Executive.

SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that a copy of this Act be transmitted to the County Executive for publication and that a copy also be transmitted to the Board of Supervisors of Elections for submission of the proposed amendment to the voters of this County at the 2006 General Election pursuant to Section 1105 of the Charter.

SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the question of adoption of this proposed Charter Amendment shall be submitted to the voters of the County at the General Election occurring on November 7, 2006, and shall be placed on the ballot in the following form:

PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT

To amend the prescribed scheduling and notice periods for legislation by the Clerk of the Council; to amend the time for presentation of enacted bills to the County Executive; and to authorize amendments to the County legislative process during an emergency declared by the Governor for matters relating to and responsive to the emergency.

Adopted this 18th day of July, 2006, by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of the full County Council.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Thomas E. Dernoga
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-59-2006 WAS APPROVED AT REFERENDUM ON 11/7/2006
EFFECTIVE DATE: 12/8/2006