



# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Office of the Clerk of the Council  
(301) 952-3600

FEB 16 2017

The Hon. Jim Rosapepe, Chair  
Prince George's County Senate Delegation  
James Senate Office Building, Room 314  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

The Hon. Jay Walker, Chair  
Prince George's County House Delegation  
Lowe House Office Building, Room 207E  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991


**Re: Prince George's County Delegation Bill Position**

Dear Senator Rosapepe & Delegate Walker:

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Prince George's County Council, to transmit our position on pending proposed State legislation for the 2016 General Assembly Session. The Council met on January 31, 2017. The enclosed report reflects our position on General Assembly bills as they are currently drafted.

The Council appreciates the opportunity to work together with you and your colleagues to address issues important to our citizens and the operation of Prince George's County. Should you have any questions or need additional information please do not hesitate to contact me. For your convenience my office phone number is (301) 952-3426. Thanks again, for favorable consideration of the Council's position.

Sincerely,



Derrick L. Davis  
Chair

Enclosures

cc: Hon. Bobby A. Zirkin, Chair, Judicial Proceedings  
Hon. Joseph F. Vallario, Jr., Chair, House Judiciary  
Hon. Rushern L. Baker, III, County Executive

## RULES & GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Prince George's County Council met on February 7, 2017 with the following Members present:

Council Member, Derrick L. Davis, Chair  
Council Member, Dannielle M. Glaros, Vice Chair  
Council Member Mel Franklin  
Council Member Andrea C. Harrison  
Council Member Deni Taveras  
Council Member Obie Patterson  
Council Member Todd M. Turner

The Council voted for the following positions on these respective bills:

<b>PG 419-17</b>	Prince George's County – Student Loan Refinancing Authority – <b>SUPPORT</b>
<b>HB 1/SB 230</b>	Labor and Employment – Maryland Healthy Working Families – <b>SUPPORT</b>
<b>HB 631/SB 415</b>	Public Health – Essential Generic Drugs – Price Gouging – Prohibition – <b>SUPPORT</b>
<b>SB 214</b>	Local Government – Public Nuisances – Restriction on Local “Padlock” Laws – <b>OPPOSE</b>



# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700  
County Council

## POSITION STATEMENT

SB 214  
Senator  
James Brochin

**Local Government – Public Nuisances – Restriction  
on Local “Padlock” Laws**

### POSITION:

### OPPOSE

SB 214 – Local Government – Public Nuisances – Restriction on Local “Padlock” Laws prohibits a county from enacting or enforcing a local law that authorizes its chief law enforcement officer to respond to public nuisances by ordering the discontinuance of the nuisance or closing the premises to abate the nuisances. The bill further requires a hearing before a circuit court judge and eliminates the need for the owner of the premises to first request the hearing.

The requirements set forth in SB 214 usurp local authority and a chief law enforcement officer’s ability to quickly respond to nuisances in the interest of protecting residents. This County Council believes that its law enforcement officials are in the best position and well equipped to respond to public nuisances in a timely and efficient manner. Replacing a first responder’s role in addressing nuisances reduces this ability. While we respect judicial authority and understand that some public nuisance cases warrant judicial opinion, we believe that requiring a circuit court hearing will create untimely and inefficient responses to this public interest issue.

We understand that some policies may induce the need for legislative correction in some local jurisdictions, but padlock laws in this County are not among them. In addition, we have put in place procedures that were developed to meet the needs of this jurisdiction. This bill has shed a light on the possible need to monitor enforcement of public nuisances and this body will continue to monitor this issue and make corrections to any inefficiency that arises.

**Therefore, the Prince George’s County Council recommends an UNFAVORABLE report on SB 214 and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of its position.**

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Prepared by:

Tia L. Holmes  
Government Relations Associate  
Strategic Solutions Center  
On behalf of Prince George’s County Council

**County Administration Building – Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772**