

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2025 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CB-023-2025

Draft No.: 2

Committee: Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy & Environment

Date: 10/14/2025

Action: FAV(A)

REPORT:

Committee Vote: Favorable as Amended, 3-0 (In Favor: Council Members Olson, Harrison, and Fisher)

The Committee convened on October 14, 2025, to discuss CB-23-2025, which amends Subtitle 3 (Animal Control), Division 2 (Animal Control Program), requiring the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) to create a study on the effects of wildlife displacement by the development of new land, to include:

- (A) The types of wildlife that are displaced
- (B) The costs associated with the removal of the wildlife
- (C) An estimate of the negative impact of wildlife on the land to be developed and developed lands within a reasonable distance
- (D) Inventory of areas in the County where wildlife is present
- (E) A formula that establishes reasonable fees for the loss of wildlife, or what is deemed necessary to protect, control, and limit wildlife within the County.

CB-23 requires the County Council to adopt the study's findings and approve a fee schedule by Resolution. The wildlife fees generated shall be used for the purposes of limiting, controlling, and protecting the wildlife within the county. The Department of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement (DPIE) would be required to implement and administer the adopted fee schedule. The M-NCPPC would provide the study within six (6) months of enactment, and the Planning Director and the Animal Control Administrator would periodically reevaluate the study and make recommendations to the County Council.

CB-23 also proposes that the M-NCPPC Planning Director and Animal Control Administrator jointly create a comprehensive plan to address the wildlife displacement issues within the county. The plan shall include the goals of limiting wildlife-displaced animals from impacting surrounding properties and protecting the displaced wildlife. The M-NCPPC Planning Director and Animal Control Administrator would reevaluate and update the Plan as needed.

The Planning Department provided comments expressing concerns regarding the appropriate agencies to conduct the study, evaluate costs, and develop the plan. The Planning Director, Lakisha Hull, suggested that the County's Department of the Environment (DOE) may be the

more appropriate agency to lead the efforts to accomplish CB-23's objectives. The County's Department of the Environment expressed similar concerns, suggesting that the Maryland Department of Natural Resources has the specific expertise related to wildlife. David Fisher, the Associate Director for DOE, discussed the agency's focus on sick and injured wildlife, as well as domestic and livestock animals. Mr. Fisher estimated the cost of staffing a ranger division to implement the bill's provisions to be approximately \$875,000. The Maryland Building Industry Association also submitted written comments expressing concerns with the impact of new mandates and fees on top of recently enacted conservation regulations at the state and county levels.

In response to the concerns, the sponsor offered amendments in a proposed draft 2, which:

- Adds DOE as a participant in the study and comprehensive plan development
- Includes additional items in the study:
 - o The identification of any endangered species that may be displaced
 - o Estimated cost of wildlife damage on residential and commercial properties
- Adds goals to the comprehensive plan:
 - o Increase the role of Animal Control in limiting, controlling, and protecting wildlife
 - o Increase the availability of Animal Control to respond to wildlife calls from residents
- Removes provisions regarding submission of the study and fee schedule to the Council, and Council adoption of the study and fee schedule.

After discussion, the Committee voted favorably on CB-23-2025 as amended by a vote of 3-0.