

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2012 Legislative Session

Bill No. CB-7-2012

Chapter No. 3

Proposed and Presented by Council Member Franklin

Introduced by Council Members Franklin, Lehman and Harrison

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction March 6, 2012

BILL

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Agricultural Resources Preservation

3 For the purpose of revising the composition of the Agricultural Resources Advisory Committee;
4 establishing the Agricultural Reconciliation Subcommittee; providing for the powers, duties,
5 composition, term, officers, meetings and annual report of the Agricultural Reconciliation
6 Subcommittee; and generally relating to agriculture preservation.

7 BY repealing and reenacting with amendments:

8 SUBTITLE 2. ADMINISTRATION.

9 Sections 2-426, 2-427, 2-428, 2-429, and 2-430

10 The Prince George's County Code

11 (2007 Edition, 2010 Supplement).

12 BY adding:

13 SUBTITLE 2. ADMINISTRATION.

14 Sections 2-431, 2-432, 2-433, 2-434, and 2-435

15 The Prince George's County Code

16 (2007 Edition, 2010 Supplement).

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County,
18 Maryland, that Sections 2-426, 2-427, 2-428, 2-429 and 2-430 of the Prince George's County
19 Code be and the same are hereby repealed and reenacted with the following amendments:

20 **SUBTITLE 2. ADMINISTRATION.**

DIVISION 30. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

1 **Sec. 2-426. Agricultural Resources Advisory Committee created.**

2 The Prince George's County Agricultural Resources Advisory Committee is hereby created
3 to serve as a link between the farming community and local government.

4 **Sec. 2-427. Powers and duties of Committee.**

5 (a) The Committee shall have the power and duty to:

6 (1) Serve as the central point of information for the farming community regarding
7 governmental programs affecting agricultural operations;

8 (2) Advise County government regarding the effect on agricultural operations of
9 existing laws, policies, rules and regulations;

10 (3) Advise County government regarding the effect on agricultural operations of
11 potential laws, policies, rules and regulations;

12 (4) Work to establish better communication and understanding between the
13 agricultural industry and the community at large; and

14 (5) Advise the County government on the implementation of state and local
15 initiatives pertaining to development such as, but not limited to, rural legacy, nutrient
16 management, and smart growth programs.

17 **Sec. 2-428. Committee composition; term; officers.**

18 (a) The Committee shall be composed of [eleven] thirteen members nominated by the
19 County Executive and confirmed by the County Council. [Six] Four members shall be citizen
20 members with specific farming interests. The other [five] nine members shall represent the Farm
21 Bureau, the Maryland Cooperative Extension, the County Agricultural Land Preservation
22 Advisory Board, the Soil Conservation District, and the United States Department of
23 Agriculture, non-farming interests, Prince George's County Association of Realtors, one member
24 from the equine community and one member from the forestry community. One ex-officio
25 member may be appointed by the County Executive and one ex-officio member by the County
26 Council. Members shall be selected so as to represent diverse geographic locations and a broad
27 range of agricultural interests.

28 (b) The term of office for each member shall be three years; however, the terms of the
29 initial appointments shall be staggered with [four] five members appointed to three-year terms,
30 [four] five members appointed to two-year terms, and three members appointed to one-year
31 terms.

1 (c) The committee members shall elect annually from their own membership a chairman
 2 and such other officers as it deemed necessary. Staff support shall be provided by the Maryland-
 3 National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

4 **Sec. 2-429. Meetings.**

5 The Committee shall meet in public session on call of the chairman as frequently as
 6 required to perform its duties and exercise its responsibilities.

7 **Sec. 2-430. Committee's Annual report.**

8 The Committee shall advise the County Executive and County Council on issues of interest
 9 to the agricultural and rural populace, both on the Committee's own initiative and upon the
 10 request of either branch of County government. Further, the Committee shall submit an annual
 11 report to the County Executive and County Council summarizing its activities during the
 12 preceding year together with any recommendations or requests it deems appropriate to further
 13 the public purpose of the committee.

14 SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's
 15 County, Maryland, that Sections 2-431, 2-432, 2-433, 2-434, and 2-435 of the Prince George's
 16 County Code be and the same are hereby added:

17 **SUBTITLE 2. ADMINISTRATION.**

18 **DIVISION 30. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

19 **Sec. 2-431. Agricultural Reconciliation Subcommittee created.**

20 The Prince George's County Agricultural Reconciliation Subcommittee is hereby created to
 21 serve as a link between the Agricultural Reconciliation Subcommittee and the Agricultural
 22 Resources Advisory Committee and the farming community and local government.

23 **Sec. 2-432. Powers and duties of Subcommittee.**

24 (a) The Subcommittee shall have the power and duty to:

25 (1) Advise the Agricultural Resources Advisory Committee on the farming
 26 community regarding governmental programs affecting agricultural operations;

27 (2) Advise the Agricultural Resources Advisory Committee regarding the effect on
 28 agricultural operations of existing laws, policies, rules and regulations;

29 (3) Advise the Agricultural Resources Advisory Committee regarding the effect on
 30 agricultural operations of potential laws, policies, rules and regulations;

1 (4) Advise the Agricultural Resources Advisory Committee in establishing better
 2 communication and understanding between the agricultural industry and the community at large;
 3 and

4 (5) Assist the Agricultural Resources Advisory Committee in advising County
 5 government on the implementation of state and local initiatives pertaining to development such
 6 as, but not limited to, rural legacy, nutrient management, and smart growth programs.

7 **Sec. 2-433. Subcommittee composition; term; officers.**

8 (a) The Subcommittee shall be composed of five members nominated by the County
 9 Executive and confirmed by the County Council. The five members shall represent an active
 10 agricultural community member, an active agricultural community member that is a voting
 11 member of the Farm Bureau, a forestry representative, the Prince George’s County Association
 12 of Realtors, and a non-farmer community member. One ex-officio member may be appointed by
 13 the County Executive and one ex-officio member by the County Council. Members shall be
 14 selected so as to represent diverse geographic locations and a broad range of agricultural
 15 interests.

16 (b) The term of office for each member shall be three years; however, the terms of the
 17 initial appointments shall be staggered with four members appointed to three-year terms, four
 18 members appointed to two-year terms, and three members appointed to one-year terms.

19 (c) The Subcommittee members shall elect annually from their own membership a
 20 chairman and such other officers as it deemed necessary. Staff support shall be provided by the
 21 Prince George’s County Agricultural Marketing Specialist.

22 **Sec. 2-434. Subcommittee Meetings.**

23 The Subcommittee shall meet in public session on call of the chairman of the Agricultural
 24 Resources Advisory Committee and the chairman of the Agricultural Reconciliation
 25 Subcommittee as frequently as required to perform its duties and exercise its responsibilities.

26 **Sec. 2-435. Subcommittee Annual report.**

27 The Subcommittee shall advise the County Executive and County Council on issues of
 28 interest to the agricultural and rural populace, both on the chairman of the Agricultural
 29 Resources Advisory Committee’s initiative and/or the chairman of the Agricultural
 30 Reconciliation Subcommittee’s initiative upon the request of either branch of County
 31 government. Further, the Subcommittee shall submit an annual report to the Agricultural

1 Resources Advisory Committee summarizing its activities during the preceding year together
2 with any recommendations or requests it deems appropriate to further the public purpose of the
3 Subcommittee.

4 SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Act shall take effect forty-five (45)
5 calendar days after it becomes law.

6 Adopted this 27th day of March, 2012.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Andrea C. Harrison
Chair

ATTEST:

Redis C. Floyd
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

DATE: _____ BY: _____
Rushern L. Baker, III
County Executive

KEY:
Underscoring indicates language added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate language deleted from existing law.