

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORT
2019 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CR-001-2020

Draft No.: 2

Committee: General Assembly Committee

Date: 2/11/2020

Action: FAV(A)

REPORT:

Committee Vote: Favorable with Amendments, 4-0 (In Favor: Council Members Davis, Taveras, Ivey and Turner)

The General Assembly Committee convened on February 11, 2020 to review, CR-1-2020, which expresses the County Council's support for the goals of LOCAL Maryland to prevent state preemption laws which serve as a tool to weaken local democracies and protect the rights of local governments to pass laws that support healthy families, a clean environment, good jobs and promote equity and inclusion in our municipalities and throughout the State of Maryland.

Colette Gresham, Legislative Officer, provided a summary of the legislation. LOCAL Maryland (Let Our Communities Act Locally) is a coalition of advocacy organizations committed to protecting the health, environment and economic well-being of Maryland residents. Their goal is to ensure that local governments have the ability to pass laws that meet the needs of their residents.

The efforts of this organization are part of a response to the "Implied Preemption" doctrine adopted by Maryland Courts, which finds that counties may be preempted from adopting local laws-even without any State law explicitly articulating the preemption. This issue has been a priority of many advocacy groups, including the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo). The Committee's discussion resulted in an amendment to include a reference to specific efforts, led by MACo, to address this issue during the 2020 Legislative Session of the Maryland General Assembly.

After the discussion, the Committee voted favorably on CR-1-2020 as amended by a vote of 4-0.