



Todd M. Turner
Chair
District 4

Service. Community. Progress.

JAN 28 2020

The Hon. Joanne C. Benson, Chair
Prince George's County Senate Delegation
James Senate Office Building, Room 214
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

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

Re: Prince George's County Council's Position on General Assembly Legislation

Dear Senator Benson & Delegate Barron:

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Prince George's County Council, to transmit our position on pending proposed State legislation for the 2020 General Assembly Session. The Council met on January 28, 2020. The enclosed report reflects our positions 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) 952-3094.

Thanks again, for favorable consideration of the Council's position.

Sincerely,

Todd M. Turner
Council Chair

Enclosures

cc: Hon. Angela D. Alsobrooks, Prince George's County Executive

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

The Prince George's County Council met on January 28, 2020 with the following Members present:

Council Member, Todd M. Turner, Chair
Council Member, Calvin S. Hawkins, II, Vice Chair
Council Member, Monique Anderson-Walker
Council Member, Derrick L. Davis
Council Member, Thomas E. Dernoga
Council Member, Mel Franklin
Council Member, Dannielle M. Glaros
Council Member, Sydney J. Harrison
Council Member, Jolene Ivey
Council Member, Rodney C. Streeter
Council Member, Deni L. Taveras

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

HB 1/SB 1	Built to Learn Act of 2020 – SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS
HB 58/SB 386	Cooperative Housing Corporations, Condominiums, and Homeowners Associations - Reserve Studies - SUPPORT
HB 205	Southern Maryland Rapid Transit Project - Requirements and Funding - SUPPORT
HB 209/SB 313	Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act – SUPPORT
SB 229/HB 292	Toll Roads, Highways, and Bridges - County Government Consent Requirement – Expansion – SUPPORT
PG 301-20	Prince George's County - Alcoholic Beverages – Alcohol Awareness - SUPPORT
PG 302-20	Prince George's County – Speed Monitoring Systems – Church Road - SUPPORT
PG 303-20	Prince George's County – Alcoholic Beverages – Shopping Center - SUPPORT
PG 304-20	Prince George's County – Alcoholic Beverages – Family Entertainment Permit – SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT
PG 306-20	Prince George's County – Speed Monitoring Systems – MD Route 210 (Indian Head Highway) - SUPPORT
PG 307-20	Prince George's County – Speed Monitoring Systems – MD Route 382 (Croom Road) – SUPPORT

- PG 401-20** Prince George's County - Authority to Impose Fees for Use of Disposable Bags – **SUPPORT**
- PG 402-20** State Highways – Toll Facilities – **SUPPORT**
- PG 403-20** Prince George's County - Cooperative Housing Corporations, Condominiums, and Homeowners Associations – Reserve Studies – **SUPPORT**



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

HB 1
The Speaker and
Delegates McIntosh,
Dumais, and M. Jackson

Built to Learn Act of 2020

POSITION:

SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

HB 1 – Built to Learn Act of 2020 – FOR the purpose of requiring or authorizing, under certain circumstances, the Maryland Stadium Authority to contract for, manage, and oversee certain public school facility projects; authorizing the Prince George's County government and Board of Education to enter into a certain public-private partnership to enhance the delivery of public school construction projects in the county; requiring the Governor, beginning in fiscal year 2020, to include in the annual budget certain supplemental funding to be used for certain educational purposes; etc.

This bill authorizes the Maryland Stadium Authority to issue up to \$2.2 billion in revenue bonds beginning in fiscal 2022 backed by annual payments from the Education Trust Fund (ETF) that would gradually phase up to \$125 million by 2024. These funds would be used for various public school construction projects in the State including those that would result from a public-private partnership agreement in Prince George's County. The bill also seeks to increase or extend mandated State funding for supplemental public school construction programs and finally establishes a new special fund for school facilities with the highest priority based on certain criteria.

This legislation would create the largest investment in school construction in Maryland's history. Prince George's County has some of the oldest school facilities in the State with the average age of our buildings nearing close to forty years old. Our County, our school system, and the students in our communities would benefit tremendously from the implementation of this visionary plan. In addition, we believe that prioritizing those jurisdictions and school districts with the greatest need is a laudable goal and something we greatly support.

The County Council supports the overarching goals of this piece of legislation and greatly appreciates the leadership that the Speaker and the Sponsors have shown by putting forth this initiative. We understand that by helping to ensuring the success of the students in Prince George's County we ensure the success of the future of our great State as a whole. Nevertheless, as the Committee and the General Assembly deliberate on this bill we would suggest that there be some necessary amendments made to clarify a few aspects of the legislation.

Prince George's County Council Position Statement – PG 502-20 - SUPPORT

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For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council **SUPPORTS HB 1 WITH AMENDMENTS** and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of this legislation with the necessary amendments.

Prepared by: Evans & Associates
On behalf of the Prince George's County Council



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

**HB 58
(SB 386)**
Delegate Holmes
Environment &
Transportation
(Judicial Proceedings)

Cooperative Housing Corporations, Condominiums,
and Homeowners Associations – Reserve Studies

POSITION:

SUPPORT

HB 58 (SB 386) – Cooperative Housing Corporations, Condominiums, and Homeowners Associations – Reserve Studies – FOR the purpose of requiring the governing body of certain cooperative housing corporations to have a reserve study conducted of the common elements of the cooperative housing corporation by a certain date and at certain intervals under certain circumstances.

When a person purchases a single-family home, condominium, or an interest in a cooperative housing corporation, he or she may also be required to join an association of owners, which is intended to act in the common interests of all the homeowners, condominium unit owners, or cooperative owners in the community. Collectively, these associations are often referred to as common ownership communities (COCs). The annual budget of a COC must allocate funds for reserves, capital items, and general expenses of the COC. Unit owners must be assessed for current common expenses and reserves for future expenses in proportion to their percentage interests in the common expenses and common profits. The public offering statement for a cooperative must contain specified information including a copy of the projected annual budget, including reserves. Secretary of State registration records show that, as of December 2018, 2,691 condominium regimes have been registered with the State. The State Department of Assessments and Taxation, which maintains assessment records based on class of property, reports that there are 229,859 condominium units in the State as of December 2018. The Foundation for Community Association Research estimated that there were 6,750 community associations in the State in 2017.

In Prince George's County, a growing number of newly constructed or newly converted residences are located in some form of a COC. The County is working to make sure that the financial contributions of these residents are spent in ways that address ways that meet the needs of their associations. Reserve studies are a vital aspect of COC management. They are used to gauge the condition of the association's reserve fund in order to better plan a long-term budget. Many projects that impact common areas — whether new roofs or a new swimming pool — are very large and costly and require years of planning in order to pay for. COC reserve fund studies help the board get a more accurate picture of the finances. They cover both what is available now and, in the future, so they can plan for big expenditures. When reserve studies aren't updated for years, the board works with outdated information. Sooner or later, a COC will run into financial problems. That will mean either scrapping projects or calling for a special

Prince George's County Council Position Statement – HB58 (SB 386) – POSITION

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assessment. These unexpected fees can be disruptive to communities and could lead to extenuated burdens on the citizens of Prince George's County.

For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council **SUPPORTS HB 58 (SB 386)** and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of this legislation.

Prepared by: LA PEREZ CONSULTING
On behalf of the Prince George's County Council



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

HB 205
(D.M. Davis)

Southern Maryland Rapid Transit Project - Requirements and Funding

POSITION:

SUPPORT

HB 205 - Southern Maryland Rapid Transit Project - Requirements and Funding – requires the State Department of Transportation to promptly undertake all necessary steps to complete the design, engineering, and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. This bill also requires the Governor to include an annual appropriation from the Transportation Trust Fund in the State budget.

The Southern Maryland Rapid Transit (SMRT) Project is a proposed light rail from the Branch Avenue Metrorail Station in Prince George's County to Waldorf and White Plains in Charles County. A SMRT Study Final Report by the Maryland Transit Administration in 2017, concluded that a rapid transit rail system would support the County's proposed residential and commercial development through 2040, reduce commute times, and allow County residents to take advantage of opportunities in surrounding jurisdictions. As outlined in our joint legislative priority letter, with the growth of the County, the Council will continue to pursue funding for rapid transit alternatives and multi-jurisdictional corridors.

This bill would release the \$27 million required for the initial phase of the project; with \$12 million allocated for fiscal year 2022 and \$15 million allocated for 2023. Despite initial construction expenses, the annual operating costs for a Rapid Transit Rail System is approximately \$10 million less than the annual operating costs of a traditional bus system. A Rapid Transit Rail System is also more accommodating to future expansion initiatives.

For these reasons, **Prince George's County Council supports HB 205** and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of this position.

Prepared by: LA Perez Consulting
On behalf of the Prince George's County Council



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

HB 209

(SB 313)

Delegate Lierman, et al.

Environment &

Transportation

(Senator Augustine, et al.)

(Finance)

Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act

POSITION:

SUPPORT

HB 209 (SB 313) – Plastics and Packaging Reduction Act – FOR the purpose of prohibiting a store from distributing plastic carryout bags to a customer at the point of sale; requiring a store to charge and collect at least 10 cents for each durable carryout bag the store provides to a customer; authorizing a store to retain all money collected under certain circumstances; providing certain penalties for certain violations of the Act under certain circumstances; establishing the Single-Use Products Workgroup; requiring the Workgroup to study and make recommendations regarding single-use products; etc.

The bill defines single-use disposable bags as those you get at the grocery or other stores during a point of sale and excludes a tax on plastic bags used for items such as produce and meat. It also excludes single use compostable bags. If passed, the State will join the District, Baltimore City, Montgomery County, and Takoma Park which have previously passed similar regulations.

Disposable plastic shopping bags are harmful to wildlife and the environment. A study done by the Maryland Sierra Club found they accounted for nearly half of all of the trash in the streams leading to the Anacostia River. The objective of a disposable bag fee is not to raise revenue, but to change shopper behavior, resulting in fewer bags and less trash in Maryland.

Groups involved in stream clean-ups where bag fees have been imposed have noticed an impact on plastic bag trash. “The number of plastic bags collected by the Friends of Sligo Creek cleanup dropped from 2,168 to 223 from 2011 to 2013, before and after the Montgomery fee, and the share of plastic bags in total dropped from 22% to 13%,” reported Anne Ambler, President of the Neighbors of the Northwest Branch and organizer of the Montgomery survey.

For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George’s County Council **SUPPORTS HB209 (SB313)** and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of this legislation.

Prepared by: LA PEREZ CONSULTING

On behalf of the Prince George’s County Council

County Administration Building – Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

SB 229
(Senator Lee)
Finance Committee

Toll Roads, Highways, and Bridges - County
Government Consent Requirement – Expansion

POSITION:

SUPPORT

SB229 – Toll Roads, Highways, and Bridges - County Government Consent Requirement – Expansion-
FOR the purpose of expanding to all counties in the State a prohibition on State agencies constructing a
toll road, toll highway, or toll bridge without the consent of the affected county (or Baltimore City).

Since 1971, MDTA has been responsible for constructing, managing, operating, and improving the State's
toll facilities and for financing new revenue-producing transportation projects. MDTA has the authority
to set tolls on transportation facilities projects under its supervision. There are currently two transportation
projects in the planning stage that involve tolls: the third span across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and the
Governor's Traffic Relief Plan.

This legislation seeks to address an issue that has been raised across the state, and over the course of many
years, by providing local government officials the authority to consent on transportation matters that
impact their communities. Currently only 9 of Maryland's 24 jurisdictions are afforded this opportunity.
Expanding the right of consent to the governments of all affected counties is long overdue.

The Prince George's County Council takes seriously its responsibility to attain the transportation goals of
our constituents. As we travel our roads daily, we have firsthand knowledge of our transportation needs.
Each year the Council develops the County's transportation priorities and provides that information to the
Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT). All too often, we find projects supported and funded
by MDOT that were not among our priorities. The authority for local governments to weigh in on State
transportation projects in their communities will help ensure the proper balance for creating the framework
needed for transportation priorities and investments, while delivering the best system for the traveling
public.

For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council **SUPPORTS SB 229** and respectfully
requests your favorable consideration of this legislation.

Prepared by: LA PEREZ CONSULTING
On behalf of Prince George's County Council



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

HB 292 Toll Roads, Highways, and Bridges - County
(Delegate Lehman, et al.) Government Consent Requirement – Expansion

**Environment and
Transportation
Committee**

POSITION:

SUPPORT

HB 292 – Toll Roads, Highways, and Bridges - County Government Consent Requirement – Expansion-
FOR the purpose of expanding to all counties in the State a prohibition on State agencies constructing a toll road, toll highway, or toll bridge without the consent of the affected county (or Baltimore City).

Since 1971, MDTA has been responsible for constructing, managing, operating, and improving the State's toll facilities and for financing new revenue-producing transportation projects. MDTA has the authority to set tolls on transportation facilities projects under its supervision. MDTA's transportation facilities projects primarily include bridges, tunnels, and toll highways, such as the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, the Baltimore Harbor Tunnel, and the John F. Kennedy Memorial Highway. There are currently two transportation projects in the planning stage that involve tolls: the third span across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and the Governor's Traffic Relief Plan.

A State agency, including MDTA, must get the approval of the majority of affected governments to construct a toll road, toll highway, or toll bridge in Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester counties. The bill expands this requirement to all counties in the State (including Baltimore City).

Passage of this legislation will allow the citizens and local government to have a voice in State proposed transportation projects, ensuring each would meet the needs of the community. It is up to elected officials to find the right balance to ensure that the public gets the value, efficiency and safety it deserves from its transportation network – particularly at a time when our transportation system is in dire need of repair and when resources are scarce.

For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council SUPPORTS HB 292 and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of this legislation.

Prepared by: LA PEREZ CONSULTING
On behalf of Prince George's County Council

County Administration Building – Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

PG 301-20
Delegate Lehman
Prince George's County
Delegation

Prince George's County –Alcoholic Beverages –
Alcohol Awareness

POSITION:

SUPPORT

PG 301-20 – Prince George's County – Alcohol Beverages – Alcohol Awareness – FOR the purpose of requiring, in Prince George's County, a holder of certain alcoholic beverages licenses or an individual designated by the license holder who is employed in a supervisory capacity to be certified by an approved alcohol awareness program and to be present on the licensed premises at all times when alcoholic beverages may be sold; providing for certain penalties; and generally relating to alcoholic beverages licenses in Prince George's County.

This bill requires the licensee, or designated individual employee in a supervisory capacity, to be trained and certified in an approved alcohol awareness program. An individual with this certification must be on the premises whenever alcohol is being served.

Alcohol awareness programs educate owners, supervisors and frontline employees about responsible alcohol consumption and offer strategies for protecting customers and workers. Alcohol service involves many risks. Failure to act responsibly could result in fines, imprisonment, increased insurance costs, license suspension or revocation. An alcohol certification program is designed to prevent intoxication, underage drinking, and drunk driving by enhancing the fundamental "people skills" of licensees and supervisors. Alcohol awareness programs provide individuals with the knowledge and confidence they need to recognize potential alcohol-related problems and intervene to prevent alcohol-related tragedies.

The Prince George's County Council takes seriously its oversight of alcoholic beverage licensees and its responsibility for the safety and security of our residents and visitors. This bill furthers our goal toward our licensees using the "best practices" in the industry and ensuring the responsible sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages.

For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council **SUPPORTS PG 301-20** and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of this legislation.

Prepared by: Carrington & Associates, LLC
On behalf of the Prince George's County Council

County Administration Building – Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

PG 302-20
Delegate Barron
Prince George's County
Delegation

Prince George's County – Speed Monitoring Systems
– Church Road

POSITION:

SUPPORT

PG 302-20 - Prince George's County – Speed Monitoring Systems – Church Road – FOR the purpose of authorizing the placement and use of a speed monitoring system on Church Road between Old Stage Road and Dunwood Valley Drive in Prince George's County, subject to certain placement and signage requirements; and generally relating to the placement and use of speed monitoring systems in Prince George's County.

The Prince George's County Council takes its responsibility of ensuring the safety and security of our residents very seriously. Traffic fatalities and serious injuries are far too common in our neighborhoods and roadways. Church Road is a local roadway that crosses through several communities encompassing tens of thousands of residents. The issue of reckless speed on this road is well-documented and demands for a speed monitoring device in this area have increased significantly. The Prince George's County Police Department has increased motorist awareness in this area utilizing the available tools and strategies. The Council hopes that the strategic placement of this speed monitoring device will reduce speed on the roadway and reduce the number of fatal and serious crashes that occur on Church Road. Reducing speed on this stretch of road is very important for the safety of our residents and visitors.

The County Council supports photo enforcement as a proven method to effectively impact driver behavior and improve safety in scenarios like that which currently exists on Church Road. While we support the pursuit of a speed monitoring system through the current legislative process, we encourage the establishment of a more flexible and efficient process for determining the location of additional speed monitoring systems in the future. An approval system based on a set of reasonable criteria would allow for a more responsive method for addressing local safety concerns. In the absence of such a system, we support utilization of the existing process to address this critical need to protect our residents.

For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council **SUPPORTS PG 302-20** and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of this legislation.

Prepared by: Carrington & Associates, LLC
On behalf of the Prince George's County Council

County Administration Building – Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

**HB 293
(PG 303-20)**
Delegate Valentino-Smith
Prince George's County
Delegation

Prince George's County –Alcoholic Beverages –
Shopping Centers

POSITION:

SUPPORT

HB 293 (PG 303-20) – Prince George's County – Alcohol Beverages – Shopping Centers – FOR the purpose of creating a Class B–SC (shopping center) alcoholic beverages license in Prince George's County; authorizing the Board of License Commissioners for Prince George's County to issue the license for use in a restaurant in a shopping center that meets certain requirements; providing that the license authorizes the license holder to sell beer, wine, and liquor for on–premises consumption; requiring an applicant for the license to ensure that certain requirements are met and that the average daily receipts of the restaurant from the sale of food and nonalcoholic beverages exceed a certain amount; authorizing the Board to revoke a license under certain circumstances; requiring a license holder to submit to the Board a certain report; requiring the Board to make certain determinations; authorizing the Board to approve certain license transfers; prohibiting the Board from issuing the license for use by a certain type of restaurant; setting an annual license fee; exempting the license from certain restrictions; and generally relating to alcoholic beverages licenses in Prince George's County.

This bill will create a license in Prince George's County for restaurants in a shopping center that has a minimum of 50,000 square feet and 10 retail units. The license is for on-premise consumption of beer, wine and liquor. This bill will encourage restaurants to locate in shopping centers and/or attract new tenants to existing retail shopping centers. The licensee must ensure, through monthly reporting, that their average daily receipts for food exceed their receipts for alcohol sales. The licensee will be responsible for adhering to all regulations for restaurants in Prince George's County.

The Prince George's County Council takes seriously its oversight of alcoholic beverage licensees and its responsibility for the safety and security of our residents and visitors. This bill strikes the necessary balance between expanding economic development opportunities with needs and concerns of our citizens.

For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council **SUPPORTS HB 293 (PG 303-20)** and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of this legislation.

Prepared by: Carrington & Associates, LLC
On behalf of the Prince George's County Council

County Administration Building – Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

PG 304-20
Senator Rosapepe
Prince George's County
Delegation

**Prince George's County – Alcoholic Beverages –
Family Entertainment Permit**

POSITION:

SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

PG 304-20 Prince George's County – Alcoholic Beverages – Family Entertainment Permit – FOR the purpose of extending the time when the entertainment provided by a holder of a family entertainment permit in Prince George's County must end; and generally relating to permits held by holders of alcoholic beverages licenses in Prince George's County.

Under current law, a holder of a Class B (on-sale) license may apply for a Family Entertainment Permit. The licensee cannot offer a different menu or prices in the room where the entertainment is provided, and seating capacity cannot exceed 110 individuals. The entertainment must be suitable for the viewing of underage persons and said entertainment must cease at midnight. This bill will allow the entertainment to continue until 2 A.M. the following day.

The Prince George's County Council regularly hears complaints from residents, business owners and law enforcement concerning noise, rowdy behavior, property damage and other impediments to their quiet enjoyment due to establishments that serve alcohol and provide entertainment. However, the majority of these complaints are not likely associated with family entertainment permit holders. Further, the Council recognizes the need to encourage the growth of family restaurant/entertainment choices in the County. However, extending entertainment for two additional hours may increase difficulty in clearing patrons from these establishments at 2 A.M. Therefore, as a compromise, the Council voted to amend the bill to allow entertainment to continue until 1 A.M. We believe this amendment provides a benefit to permit holders while considering noise concerns and allowing for orderly dispersal of patrons from the establishment.

For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council **SUPPORTS PG 304-20 WITH AMENDMENT** and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of this legislation.

Prepared by: Carrington & Associates, LLC
On behalf of the Prince George's County Council



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

PG 306-20

Delegate Healey
Prince George's County
Delegation

**Prince George's County – Speed Monitoring
Systems – Maryland Route 210 (Indian Head
Highway)**

POSITION:

SUPPORT

PG 306-20 Prince George's County – Speed Monitoring Systems – Maryland Route 210 (Indian Head Highway) – FOR the purpose of repealing the requirement that certain revenue collected by Prince George's County as a result of violations recorded by speed monitoring systems on Maryland Route 210 (Indian Head Highway) be deposited into the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund and instead, requiring that the revenue be credited to the State Highway Administration (SHA) to be used solely for certain safety-related purposes related to Maryland Route 210 in Prince George's County; repealing as a funding source for the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (CICF) revenue generated as a result of violations recorded by speed monitoring systems on Maryland Route 210 in Prince George's County; and generally relating to the use of revenue generated as a result of violations recorded by speed monitoring systems on Maryland Route 210 in Prince George's County.

The Prince George's County Council has been working with the SHA for many years to address dangerous and sometimes fatal driving conditions on Indian Head Highway, known nationally as "Death Highway" due to the number of fatal and serious injuries that occur on this road annually. The increased traffic volumes from National Harbor, MGM Casino and the Tanger Outlets requires an increased focus on safety improvements.

This bill directs the funds collected by the County for violations recorded by speed monitoring systems on Maryland Route 210 to the State Highway Administration to be used for the cost of examining the engineering, infrastructure and other relevant factors that may contribute to safety issues on this roadway, as well as the development and implementation of solutions to these safety issues. We strongly believe that revenues generated from violations on Indian Head Highway should be used to improve safety conditions on that same roadway.

For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council strongly **SUPPORTS PG 306-20** and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of legislation.

Prepared by: Carrington & Associates, LLC
On behalf of the Prince George's County Council

County Administration Building – Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

PG 307-20
Prince George's County
Delegation

**Prince George's County – Speed Monitoring
Systems – Maryland Route 382 (Croom Road)**

POSITION:

SUPPORT

PG 307-20 Prince George's County – Speed Monitoring Systems – Maryland Route 382 (Croom Road) – FOR the purpose of authorizing the placement and use of speed monitoring systems on Maryland Route 382 (Croom Road) between Mount Calvert Road and Molly Berry Road in Prince George's County, subject to certain placement and signage requirements; and generally relating to the placement and use of speed monitoring systems in Prince George's County.

The Prince George's County Council takes its responsibility of ensuring the safety and security of our residents very seriously. Traffic fatalities and serious injuries are far too common in our neighborhoods and roadways. The issue of reckless speed on this road is well-documented and demands for a speed monitoring device in this area have increased significantly. The Council hopes that the strategic placement of this speed monitoring device will reduce speed on the roadway and reduce the number of fatal and serious crashes that occur on Croom Road. Reducing speed on this stretch of road is very important for the safety of our residents and visitors.

The County Council supports photo enforcement as a proven method to effectively impact driver behavior and improve safety in scenarios like that which currently exists on Croom Road. While we support the pursuit of a speed monitoring system through the current legislative process, we encourage the establishment of a more flexible and efficient process for determining the location of additional speed monitoring systems in the future. An approval system based on a set of reasonable criteria would allow for a more responsive method for addressing local safety concerns. In the absence of such a system, we support utilization of the existing process to address this critical need to protect our residents.

For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council **SUPPORTS PG 307-20** and respectfully requests your unfavorable consideration of this legislation.

Prepared by: Carrington & Associates, LLC
On behalf of Prince George's County Council



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

HB321
(PG 401-20)
Delegate Lehman
Prince George's County
Delegation

Prince George's County – Authority to Impose Fees
for Use of Disposable Bags

POSITION:

SUPPORT

HB321 (PG 401-20) – Prince George's County – Authority to Impose Fees for Use of Disposable Bags – FOR the purpose of authorizing Prince George's County to impose, by law, a fee on certain retail establishments for the use of disposable bags as part of a retail sale of products; limiting the amount of a certain fee; restricting the use of a certain fee; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the authority for Prince George's County to impose a fee for the use of disposable bags.

The revenue from the tax would go toward litter clean up and environmental stewardship programs in the county. If passed, the legislation would still need to be voted on by county council members after the 2020 General Assembly session ends in early April. The bill defines single-use disposable bags as those you get at the grocery or other stores during a point of sale and excludes a tax on plastic bags used for items such as produce and meat. If passed, the county will join the District, Baltimore City, Montgomery County and Takoma Park. Other state lawmakers are proposing a statewide plastic bag ban.

Disposable plastic shopping bags are harmful to wildlife and the environment. A study done by the Maryland Sierra Club found they accounted for nearly half of all of the trash on the streams leading to the Anacostia River. The objective of a disposable bag fee is not to raise revenue, but to change shopper behavior, resulting in fewer bags and less trash in Prince George's County.

Groups involved in stream clean-ups where bag fees have been imposed have noticed an impact on plastic bag trash. "The number of plastic bags collected by the Friends of Sligo Creek cleanup dropped from 2,168 to 223 from 2011 to 2013, before and after the Montgomery fee, and the share of plastic bags in total dropped from 22% to 13%," reported Anne Ambler, President of the Neighbors of the Northwest Branch and organizer of the Montgomery survey.

For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council **SUPPORTS HB321 (PG 401-20)** and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of this legislation.

Prepared by: LA PEREZ CONSULTING
On behalf of the Prince George's County Council

County Administration Building – Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

**HB258
(PG 402-20)**
Delegate Ivey
Prince George's County
Delegation

Prince George's County – State Highways – Toll
Facilities

POSITION:

SUPPORT

HB258 (PG 402-20) – Prince George's County – State Highways – Toll Facilities – FOR the purpose of prohibiting a State agency, including the Maryland Transportation Authority, from acquiring or constructing any toll road, toll highway, or toll bridge in Prince George's County unless authorized by Prince George's County by local law; and generally relating to the acquisition or construction of toll facilities in Prince George's County.

Since 1971, MDTA has been responsible for constructing, managing, operating, and improving the State's toll facilities and for financing new revenue-producing transportation projects. MDTA has the authority to set tolls on transportation facilities projects under its supervision. MDTA's transportation facilities projects primarily include bridges, tunnels, and toll highways, such as the Chesapeake Bay Bridge, the Baltimore Harbor Tunnel, and the John F. Kennedy Memorial Highway. There are currently two transportation projects in the planning stage that involve tolls: the third span across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and the Governor's Traffic Relief Plan.

A State agency, including MDTA, must get the approval of the majority of affected governments to construct a toll road, toll highway, or toll bridge in Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester counties. The bill establishes a similar requirement solely for Prince George's County.

Passage of this legislation will allow the citizens and local government to have a voice in State proposed transportation projects, ensuring each would meet the needs of the community. It is up to elected officials to find the right balance to ensure that the public gets the value, efficiency and safety it deserves from its transportation network – particularly at a time when our transportation system is in dire need of repair and when resources are scarce.

For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council **SUPPORTS HB258 (PG 402-20)** and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of this legislation.

Prepared by: LA PEREZ CONSULTING
On behalf of Prince George's County Council

County Administration Building – Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

HB254
(PG 403-20)
Delegate Holmes
Prince George's County
Delegation

Prince George's County – Cooperative Housing
Corporations, Condominiums, and Homeowners
Associations – Reserve Studies

POSITION:

SUPPORT

HB254 (PG 403-20) – Prince George's County – Cooperative Housing Corporations, Condominiums, and Homeowners Associations – Reserve Studies – FOR the purpose of requiring the governing body of certain cooperative housing corporations in Prince George's County to have a reserve study conducted of the common elements of the cooperative housing corporation by a certain date and at certain intervals under certain circumstances.

When a person purchases a single-family home, condominium, or an interest in a cooperative housing corporation, he or she may also be required to join an association of owners, which is intended to act in the common interests of all the homeowners, condominium unit owners, or cooperative owners in the community. Collectively, these associations are often referred to as common ownership communities (COCs). The annual budget of a COC must allocate funds for reserves, capital items, and general expenses of the COC. Unit owners must be assessed for current common expenses and reserves for future expenses in proportion to their percentage interests in the common expenses and common profits. The public offering statement for a cooperative must contain specified information including a copy of the projected annual budget, including reserves. Secretary of State registration records show that, as of December 2018, 2,691 condominium regimes have been registered with the State. The State Department of Assessments and Taxation, which maintains assessment records based on class of property, reports that there are 229,859 condominium units in the State as of December 2018. The Foundation for Community Association Research estimated that there were 6,750 community associations in the State in 2017.

In Prince George's County, a growing number of newly constructed or newly converted residences are located in some form of a COC. By passing legislation to require deadline driven reserve studies for these communities, the County is working to make sure that the financial contributions of these residents are spent in ways that address ways that meet the needs of their associations. Reserve studies are a vital aspect of COC management. They are used to gauge the condition of the association's reserve fund in order to better plan a long-term budget. Many projects that impact common areas — whether new roofs or a new swimming pool — are very large and costly and require years of planning in order to pay for. COC reserve fund studies help the board get a more accurate picture of the finances. They cover both what is available now and, in the future, so they can plan for big expenditures. When reserve studies aren't updated for years, the board works with outdated information. Sooner or later, a COC will run into financial problems.

Prince George's County Council Position Statement – HB254 (PG 403-20) – POSITION

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That will mean either scrapping projects or calling for a special assessment. These unexpected fees can be disruptive to communities and could lead to extenuated burdens on the citizens of Prince George's County.

For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council **SUPPORTS HB 254 (PG 403-20)** and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of this legislation.

Prepared by: LA PEREZ CONSULTING
On behalf of Prince George's County Council