

Prince George's County Council Agenda Item Summary

Meeting Date: 10/18/2011
Reference No.: CB-060-2011
Draft No.: 1
Proposer(s): County Executive
Sponsor(s):
Item Title: An Act for the purpose of amending the method of appointment for members of the Fire Commission; expanding the duties and responsibilities of the Fire Commission; amending the composition and function of the Volunteer Fire Service Qualifications Review Board; and generally relating to fire safety

Drafter: Joseph R. Hamlin, Office of Law
Resource Personnel: Marc S. Bashoor, Fire Chief

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

Date Presented:	9/27/2011	Executive Action:
Committee Referral:	9/27/2011 - PSFM	Effective Date:
Committee Action:	10/12/2011 - NR	
Date Introduced:	10/18/2011	
Public Hearing:		
Council Action (1)	10/18/2011 - Tabled	
Council Votes:	WC:A, MRF:A, AH:A, LJ:-, ML:A, EO:A, OP:A, IT:A, KT:A	
Pass/Fail:	P	
Remarks:	WITHDRAWN BY COUNTY EXECUTIVE	

AFFECTED CODE SECTIONS:

11-150, 11-301, 11-302, 11-303, 11-328, 11-331, 11-333, 11-335, 11-342, 11-343

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Public Safety and Fiscal Management

Date 10/12/2011

REPORT) Committee Vote: No Recommendation 4-0 (In Favor: Council Members Campos, Franklin, Patterson, and Turner)

This bill will amend the method of appointment for members of the Fire Commission and require members to be appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the Council. In addition the legislation establishes equivalent representation from County volunteer fire departments, the Fire/EMS Department, and the general public. The bill will expand the duties and responsibilities of the Fire Commission as well as amend the composition and function of the Volunteer Fire Service Qualifications Review Board. Fire Chief Marc Bashoor gave remarks during the worksession on the history of the Fire Commission and stated that the bill intends to focus strengths on one mission of career and volunteer firefighters. There was concern over whether the bill will interfere with the station management funds as they currently stand and if there will be a duplication of budgets. Questions were raised as to the timing of the bill, whether all the stakeholders were involved during discussions and drafting of the bill, and if this bill will bring about any cost savings. Testimony in support and in opposition of the bill was allowed during the

worksession. There was discussion on proposed amendments to the bill that would alter the composition of the Fire Commission to 11 members, provide for advance notice to the Fire Commission of any actions taken by the Fire Chief, and revise the fiscal stewardship provisions.

The Office of Law has reviewed this legislation and finds it to be in proper legislative form with no legal impediments to its enactment.

There will not be a negative fiscal impact on the County as a result of enacting CB-60-2011.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION/FISCAL IMPACT:

(Includes reason for proposal, as well as any unique statutory requirements)

This Act amends Subtitle 11, Divisions 5, 6 and 7 of the County Code and will require that the members of the Fire Commission be appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council. It will provide for representation on the Fire Commission from County volunteer fire departments, the Fire/EMS Department, and the general public. Additionally, it will expand the duties of the Fire Commission to allow it to play a more active role in the provision of Fire and EMS services to the County. Finally, it will amend the composition and function of the Volunteer Fire Service Qualifications Review Board.

THIS BILL WAS NOT ENACTED.

CODE INDEX TOPICS:

INCLUSION FILES:
