



# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

**Chairman**  
**Derrick Leon Davis**  
Council Member, District 6

MAR 09 2016

The Hon. Jim Rosapepe, Chair  
Prince George's County Senate Delegation  
James Senate Office Building, Room 314  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

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

Re: **Prince George's County Delegation Bill Position**

Dear Senator Rosapepe & Delegate Walker:

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Prince George's County Council, to transmit our position on pending proposed State legislation for the 2016 General Assembly Session. The Council met on March 8, 2016. The enclosed report reflects our position 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) 952-3426. Thanks again, for favorable consideration of the Council's position.

Sincerely,

Derrick L. Davis  
Chair

Attachments

cc: Hon. Rushern L. Baker, III, County Executive  
Mr. Kenneth Battle, Director, Intergovernmental Affairs

**County Administration Building – Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772**  
**Phone (301) 952-3426 Fax (301) 952-3238**  
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## RULES & GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Prince George's County Council met on March 8, 2016 with the following Members present:

Council Member, Derrick L. Davis, Chair  
Council Member, Dannielle M. Glaros, Vice Chair  
Council Member Andrea C. Harrison  
Council Member Karen R. Toles  
Council Member Todd M. Turner  
Council Member Deni Tavares  
Council Member Mary Lehman

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

<b>PG 305-16 HB 1311</b>	Prince George's County – Alcoholic Beverages Licenses – Riverdale Park – <b>SUPPORT w/AMENDMENT</b>
<b>HB 1388</b>	Transportation – Motor Fuel Tax and Highway User Revenue – Increased Local Share – <b>SUPPORT</b>
<b>HB 1455</b>	Transportation – Highway User Revenue – Restoration – <b>SUPPORT</b>
<b>HB 1350/SB 707</b>	Freestanding Medical Facilities – Certificate of Need, Rates, and Definition – <b>SUPPORT w/AMENDMENT</b>
<b>HB 1361/SB 776</b>	Hotel Rental Tax and Sales and Use Tax – Limited Residential Lodging – <b>SUPPORT w/AMENDMENT</b>



# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700  
County Council

## POSITION STATEMENT

**PG 305-16**  
**(HB 1311)**  
Delegate Alonzo  
Washington

Prince George's County – Alcoholic Beverages  
Licenses – Riverdale Park Station

### POSITION:

### SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

PG 305-16, as amended, adds “up to two” Class B-DD licenses to restaurants in Riverdale Park Town Center and increases the number of Sunday Sales permits that can be issued from 100 to 105. This bill also specifies that 5 Sunday sales permits may only be issued to holders of Class B-plus licensees who acquired that license on or after July 1, 2016. Finally, the amended bill requires the Liquor Board to waive the reinvestment requirement for a special Sunday off-sale permit for a holder of a Class B-Plus who has acquired the license on or after July 1, 2016 if the holder can show that a minimum of \$50,000 was reinvested in the business within the 3 year period immediately preceding the submission of the application.

The Prince George's County Council is pleased to support this legislation as amended. The economic development of the Riverdale Park Town Center is consistent with the continued efforts to expand the County's commercial tax base. Adding additional Class B-DD licenses helps move the needle and drive growth. The County has also realized increased revenues from additional Sunday alcohol sales. Increasing the number of Sunday Sales permits comes from the recommendation of the Prince George's Board of License Commissioners. This recommendation serves as a message that demand is high and the market can bear additional Sunday Sales permits under certain conditions and in specific areas of the County. Finally, property investment is a critical piece of creating and maintaining attractive alcohol beverage stores. It is important to require that companies that apply for the Sunday Sales permit be held to a high standard of quality and ensure a positive experience for the residents of Prince George's County.

Therefore, the County Council recommends a position of **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** on **PG 305-16** and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of its position.

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Prepared by: Eric L. Johnston III  
Government Relations Manager  
Strategic Solutions Center, LLC  
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

**HB 1350/SB 707**  
Delegate Peter  
Hammen/Thomas  
Middleton

Freestanding Medical Facilities - Certificate of Need,  
Rates, and Definition

## POSITION:

## SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

HB 1350/SB 707 exempts the conversion of a licensed general hospital to a freestanding medical facility (and any related capital expenditure) from the requirement to obtain a certificate of need (CON) and establishes the procedures for obtaining the exemption from the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC). Provisions governing freestanding medical facilities are consolidated and updated. MHCC must establish by regulation specified requirements for a public informational hearing for hospitals proposing to close, partially close, or convert to a freestanding medical facility.

Prince George's County is preparing for the development of the new 231-bed Prince George's Regional Medical Center. This facility will not only provide much needed quality healthcare for our citizens, it will also undoubtedly strengthen the County's efforts to continue economic development and bring world-class tenants to Prince George's County. Currently, the County is awaiting funds from Governor Larry Hogan to fund the transitional portion of this development. These funds are critical to fulfill State requirements to meet a CON. The Prince George's County Council believes this legislation is generally favorable due to the exemption of the CON and the potential to move the Prince George's Regional Medical Center as quickly as possible.

The current legislation also specifies requirements for public informational hearings in the exemption process. The bill states that the hospital shall hold a public informational hearing in the county where the hospital is located if the county has less than three hospitals. The Council would like slightly amend this bill by striking that language and adding that the public informational hearing be held within 5 miles of the hospital. The Council believes that this suggested amendment strengthens the intent for local input in the hospital exemption process. With the proposed friendly amendment, the Council sees this legislation favorably.

**The Council requests the following amendments: 1) any hospital within the State that files a notice of its proposed closing or partial closing with the Commission shall hold a public informational hearing in the County where the hospital is located; 2) and, in addition to the Commission providing a summary of information to the impacted County, the Commission is required to receive feedback from the County where the hospital is located.**



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County Council

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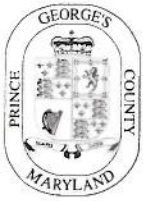
**HB 1350/SB 707**  
Delegate Peter  
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Freestanding Medical Facilities - Certificate of Need,  
Rates, and Definition

Therefore, the County Council recommends a position of **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** on **PG 305-16** and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of its position.

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On behalf of Prince George's County Council



# THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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## POSITION STATEMENT

**HB 1361/SB 776**  
Delegate Mary  
Washington/Senator  
John Astle

Hotel Rental Tax and Sales and Use Tax - Limited  
Residential Lodging

### POSITION:

### SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

HB 1361/SB 776 imposes the State sales and use tax on limited residential lodging transactions facilitated by an online hosting platform. In addition, if a local jurisdiction imposes a hotel rental tax, transient charges for limited residential lodging accommodations in that jurisdiction that are facilitated by an online hosting platform are subject to a limited residential lodging tax, imposed at the same rate as the hotel rental tax.

Increased tax revenues are a strong priority for Prince George's County. This legislation seeks to claim the appropriate taxes due to the State, Counties, and Municipalities from lodging entities that act as hotels. The Prince George's County Council agrees with the intent of this legislation. As Prince George's County attractions continued to grow, it is important to capture the appropriate taxes associated with the increased lodging traffic that come to visit those attractions. This expanded tax base helps to fund and expand the essential functions of the County.

The current legislation also specifies that the Comptroller must collect and regulate the appropriate limited residential lodging tax which would be paid to the Counties and Municipalities. The Council believes that this function should belong to local jurisdictions. Counties and Municipalities are better equipped to tax and regulate business transactions that operate within their boundaries. Doing so also eliminates the need to remit payment to the Comptroller, as stated in the legislation. The bill also disallows hosting platform information to be shared without written agreement with the Comptroller. This presents significant public safety and potential legal issues for the County. **For these reasons, the Council suggests the following amendments: 1) no state preemption for local enforcement issues, registration, or fees; 2) authority for local jurisdictions to collect taxes and fees directly; 3) and, information sharing with local jurisdictions, without cost to those jurisdictions.**

Therefore, the County Council recommends a position of **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT** on **PG 305-16** and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of its position.

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