

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2025 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CB-034-2025

Draft No.: 2

Committee: PLANNING, HOUSING, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Date: 5/15/2025

Action: FAVORABLE WITH
AMENDMENTS

REPORT: Committee Vote: Favorable with amendments, 4-0 (In favor: Council Members Dernoga, Oriadha, Hawkins, and Olson)

The Planning, Housing, and Economic Development (PHED) Committee met on May 15, 2025, to consider CB-034-2025. PHED Committee Chair Dernoga summarized the purpose of the legislation. As presented on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, Draft-1 of the bill is for the purpose of revising the composition of the Historic Preservation Commission.

The PHED Committee discussed CB-034-2025 (Proposed DR-2). PHED Committee Chair Dernoga, the bill's sponsor, explained that the Chair of the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission, Mr. John Peter Thompson, requested the proposed amendment because one of the entities referenced in the law no longer exists, so a broader provision was added to the bill.

The amendments to the bill include a technical amendment to add the word "or" in front of the word "a." The revised language reads: One (1) member shall be selected from the Prince George's County Historical and Cultural Trust Board, or a Prince George's County-based 501(c)(3) organization committed to the preservation of the cultural and historical legacy of Prince George's County.

Ms. Shalene Miller-Whyte, Legislative Budget and Policy Analyst with the Prince George's County Council Budget and Policy Division, submitted a policy and fiscal note explaining that the bill would add a member to the Historic Preservation Commission with specific knowledge and demonstrated professional interest in history, architecture, architectural history, archeology, anthropology, agriculture, and historic preservation. The bill removes one member to be selected from the Minority Building Industry Association, which no longer exists.

In addition, the bill also seeks to broaden the selected members' involvement in this industry, making their interests more specialized to fit the needs of the Historic Preservation Commission and their efforts.

Draft-2 of the bill removes the County's historic preservation non-profit agencies by name. These agencies include the Prince George's County Historical Society, the Prince George's Heritage, the African American Historical and Genealogical Society, and the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area Board. The proposed legislation says that a Prince George's County-based 501(c)(3) organization is committed to preserving the County's cultural and historical legacy

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The enactment of CB-034-2025 is not likely to have a direct fiscal impact. The indirect fiscal impact would broaden the Historic Preservation Commission's membership and increase the number of members with specialized interests across various organizations within the County. The legislative amendment may have a positive impact on the Commission's results.

The Planning Department submitted a memorandum on CB-034-2025 (DR-1) stating that upon reviewing the proposed legislation, the Department identifies an opportunity to streamline the appointment and confirmation process for the County Executive and Council regarding the nine members of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), as mandated by Subtitle 29— Preservation of Historic Resources in Section 29-105. Furthermore, we recommend providing information on the recommended replacement organizations mentioned in the proposed bill and their expertise.

Ms. Sakinda Skinner, the County Council Liaison to the County Executive's Office, expressed that the Administration supports the legislation.

Ms. Dinora Hernandez, with the Office of Law, found the legislation to be in proper legislative form and has no legal impediments to its enactment.

On motion of Council Member Olson, seconded by Council Member Hawkins, the PHED Committee voted 4-0 in favor of CB-034-2025 with amendments.