



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Chairman
Derrick Leon Davis
Council Member, District 6

FEB 9 2017

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
Lowé 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 January 31, 2017. 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

Enclosures

cc: Hon. Dereck E. Davis, Chair, House Economic Matters
Hon. Thomas M. Middleton, Chair, Senate Finance
Hon. Maggie McIntosh, Chair, House Appropriations
Hon. Rushern L. Baker, III, County Executive

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RULES & GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Prince George's County Council met on January 31, 2017 with the following Members present:

Council Member, Derrick L. Davis, Chair
Council Member, Dannielle M. Glaros, Vice Chair
Council Member Mel Franklin
Council Member Andrea C. Harrison
Council Member Mary Lehman
Council Member Deni Taveras
Council Member Obie Patterson
Council Member Karen R. Toles
Council Member Todd M. Turner

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

HB 167	Counties and Municipalities – At-Will Supervisory Employees – Residency Requirements – SUPPORT
HB 317	Labor and Employment – Wages and Benefits – Preemption of Local Authority – OPPOSE



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(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

(HB 317) Labor and Employment - Wages and Benefits -
Delegate Dereck Davis Preemption of Local Authority

POSITION: **OPPOSE**

HB 317 prohibits counties and municipalities from regulating the wages or benefits that an employer other than the county or municipality may provide to its employees. This bill would preempt any county or municipality from enacting or enforcing a law to regulate the wages or benefits provided by an employer other than the county or municipality, if the provision was enacted on or after January 1, 2017.

In this great State of Maryland, we operate with the understanding that each county is as unique as each of its inhabitants. That is why well-intentioned Statewide mandates that impact county and municipal budgets sometimes have the effect of creating an undue burden or increased deficits. Given that fact, we believe it is appropriate that a provision as impactful as wages or benefits should match the uniqueness of each county.

Our residents should have the ability to make a livable wage that is best determined by the statistics of our county and regulated by its governing body. While we respect the authority that the statute bestows on the Commissioner of Labor and Industry, this Council is accountable to the residents of Prince George's County and thereby responsible for each resident's well-being.

While this body is understanding of the spirit in which this bill is proffered, particularly as it relates to ensuring economic equality, we feel strongly that these type of measures contemplated in this legislation should remain local prerogative. **Therefore, the County Council strongly urges an UNFAVORABLE report on House Bill 317 and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of our position.**

Prepared by: Tia L. Holmes
Government Relations Associate
Strategic Solutions Center, LLC
On behalf of Prince George's County Council