



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Chairman

Derrick Leon Davis

Council Member, District 6

MAR 8 2017

The Hon. Joan Carter Conway, Chair
Senate Ed., Health, and Env. Matters
2 West Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

The Hon. Anne R. Kaiser, Chair
House Ways and Means
Lowe House Office Building, Room 131
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991


Re: **Bill Position** - SB 406 – Election Law – Voting System – Optical Scanners in Prince George's County – **SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Conway & Delegate Kaiser:

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Prince George's County Council, to transmit our position on SB 406 – Election Law – Voting System – Optical Scanners in Prince George's County, which is before you this 2017 General Assembly Session. The Council met on March 7, 2017. The enclosed statement reflects our position as the bill is currently drafted.

The Council appreciates the opportunity to work together with you and your colleagues to address issues important to Maryland 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

Enclosure

cc:

Hon. Douglas J. J. Peters, District 23

Hon. Rushern L. Baker, III, County Executive

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THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

(SB 406)
Senator Peters

Election Law – Voting Systems – Optical Scanners in
Prince George's County

POSITION:

SUPPORT

SB 406 Election Law – Voting Systems – Optical Scanners in Prince George's County requires that the voting system acquired by the State Board of Elections (SBE) for voting in polling places include at least two optical scanners for each polling place in Prince George's County. The supplemental equipment in Prince George's County must be included in SBE regulations specifying required supplies and equipment for the voting system.

This Council understands that underfunded election areas can result in long lines at polling places, requiring some voters to either wait hours to cast a ballot or to forgo their right to vote in that election. Voters who cannot wait the required amount of time are therefore effectively disenfranchised, while voters in well-funded areas with sufficient voting resources may face minimal or no waiting time. SB 406 seeks to address this concern through additional equipment aimed to help alleviate wait times. During the 2016 general election, the County had two scanners at nearly half of our polling locations. The Council realizes that more equipment is needed in order to better accommodate the needs of our citizens. Adding an additional scanner at the locations that are currently utilizing one scanner is expected to reduce waiting periods County-wide, which could lead to increased voter participation.

The bill imposes a fiscal mandate of approximately \$120,000 annually on Prince George's County, which we look forward to discussing with our Delegation to ensure the needs of our citizens are met and maintained.

SB 406 is designed to improve the flow of voters by reducing wait times during our elections, and therefore the County Council offers its **SUPPORT**. We respectfully request your favorable consideration of our position.

Prepared by: Maurice Simpson, Jr.
Jennifer A. Jenkins
On behalf of Prince George's County Council