

Prince George's County Council Agenda Item Summary

Meeting Date: 7/18/2006
Reference No.: CB-047-2006
Draft No.: 3
Proposer(s): Dernoga, Bland, Dean, Harrington, Peters, Exum
Sponsor(s): Dernoga, Bland, Dean, Harrington, Peters, Exum
Item Title: An Act concerning the establishment of a Purchase of Development Rights Program to permit the acquisition of conservation easements

Drafter: Margaret M. Addis, Office of Law
Resource Personnel: David G. Bourdon, District Manager

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

Date Presented:	6/20/2006	Executive Action:	7/31/2006 S
Committee Referral:	6/20/2006 - C.O.W.	Effective Date:	9/15/2006

Committee Action: 6/20/2006 - FAV(A)

Date Introduced: 6/20/2006
Public Hearing: 7/18/2006 - 10:30 AM

Council Action (1) 7/18/2006 - ENACTED
Council Votes: MB:A, WC:A, SHD:A, TD:A, CE:-, DCH:-, TH:N, TK:A, DP:A
Pass/Fail: P
Remarks:

AFFECTED CODE SECTIONS:

30-301, 30-302, 30-303, 30-304, 30-305, 30-306, 30-307, 30-308, 30-309, 30-310, 30-311, 30-312, 30-313

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PLANNING, ZONING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Date 6/20/2006

Committee Vote: Favorable as amended, 7-0 (In favor: Council Members Dernoga, Bland, Campos, Dean, Harrington, Hendershot, and Peters)

Margaret Addis, Associate County Attorney, summarized the legislation and informed the Council that regulations for the Preservation of Development Rights (PDR) Program will be submitted by the Soil Conservation District and reviewed by the Council at a later date. Ms. Addis also clarified the zoning classifications eligible for the PDR Program noting that the legislation should also include the R-E Zone.

Council Chair Dernoga proposed an amendment to add language to the eligibility criteria section on page 4, at the end of line 17, as follows:

“ ; notwithstanding the forgoing criteria, a property may be deemed ‘eligible’ by the County Council upon a determination that the property has sensitive natural resources and there is an important public value of protecting the property for the citizens and residents of the County. ”

Ms. Addis explained that the additional language provides flexibility for the Council to include property that may not meet the specific criteria, but meet other criteria which are deemed important to the County's preservation goals. She noted that this language allows preservation of property throughout the County.

The Legislative Officer informed the committee of technical amendments necessary throughout the legislation to accurately reflect the correct Subtitle references.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION/FISCAL IMPACT:

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

This bill will establish a Purchase of Development Rights Program in Prince George's County to permit the acquisition of conservation easements. In furtherance of the recommendations of Commission 2000, the County Council recognizes both the need and the public value of protecting farm and forest lands, ecologically fragile watershed and flood plains, as well as the more general need to protect scenic vistas and view sheds enjoyed by the citizens and residents of the County.

CODE INDEX TOPICS:

INCLUSION FILES:
