



# Prince George's County Council

## Agenda Item Summary

**Meeting Date:** 2/18/2025

**Effective Date:**

**Reference No.:** CB-013-2025

**Chapter Number:**

**Draft No.:** 1

**Public Hearing Date:**

**Proposer(s):** Olson

**Sponsor(s):** Olson

**Item Title:** AN ACT CONCERNING WOODLAND AND WILDLIFE HABITAT CONSERVATION for the purpose of strengthening enforcement of woodland maintenance requirements set forth in the woodland conservation ordinance; providing for periodic inspections of conservation areas after construction activities have been completed; and requiring annual reporting on inspection and enforcement activities.

**Drafter:** Eric Irving, Fiscal & Legislative Specialist

**Resource Personnel:** Julio Murillo, Chief of Staff, Council District 3

### LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

Date:	Acting Body:	Action:	Sent To:
02/18/2025	County Council	presented and referred	TIEE

**Action Text:**

This Council Bill was presented by Council Member Olson and referred to the Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment Committee.

### AFFECTED CODE SECTIONS:

25-120

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION/FISCAL IMPACT:

Subtitle 25, Division 2 of the Prince George's County Code sets forth the County's Woodland and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Ordinance. This ordinance details the regulatory regime used to carry out the State and County policies of protecting sensitive environmental features before, during, and after land development activities.

Recognizing the importance of ongoing preservation of protected areas, the Maryland Forest Conservation Act (and its associated regulations) authorizes local governments to enter into long-term maintenance agreements to protect conservation areas from conditions that adversely affect woodland health. These agreements between the County and a property owner, typically by conservation easement, require that conservation area be maintained after traditional enforcement mechanisms (permit approval, surety bonds) have ended.

This legislation addresses enforcement of these maintenance responsibilities by requiring the County to

conduct an initial maintenance inspection of a conservation area within two years of issuing an initial use and occupancy permit for the subject property. Following that initial inspection, the County will conduct follow-up inspections every five years. Additionally, the County will issue an annual report that details the inspections conducted during the calendar year and the resulting enforcement actions. The annual report will be submitted to the Planning Department and County Council.

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**Document(s):** B2025013