



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Chairman
Derrick Leon Davis
Council Member, District 6

FEB 27 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
Lowe 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 February 14, 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
Chairman

Enclosures

cc: Hon. Rushern L. Baker, III, County Executive

County Administration Building – Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772
Phone (301) 952-3426 Fax (301) 952-3238
E-mail: CouncilDistrict6@co.pg.md.us
www.princegeorgescountymd.gov

RULES & GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Prince George's County Council met on February 14, 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 A. Lehman
Council Member Obie Patterson
Council Member Deni Taveras
Council Member Karen R. Toles
Council Member Todd M. Turner

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

PG 313-17 HB-1220	Prince George's County – Commission of Crime of Violence in Presence of Minor – SUPPORT w/AMENDMENT
MC/PG 108-17	Prince George's County – Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission – Budget and Operation Study – SUPPORT
HB 402/SB 307	Repeal of the Maryland Open Transportation Investment Decision Act of 2016 (Road Kill Bill Repeal) – OPPOSE



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POSITION STATEMENT

(HB 1220)
Delegate Angel

Prince George's County – Commission of Crime of
Violence in Presence of Minor

POSITION:

SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT

HB 1220 prohibits a person in Prince George's County from committing certain crimes of violence when a person knows or reasonably should know that a minor is present. The Bill establishes that a sentence imposed under this bill shall be separate from and consecutive to a sentence for any crime committed under this act, and creates an additional definition of neglect in the Family Law Article, which impacts Child In Need of Assistance (CINA) cases. This expanded definition of neglect would be applicable irrespective of whether or not a person has been charged under the Act.

We are particularly supportive of the issues that this Bill attempts to address – shielding children from the cruelty of domestic violence. In the State of Maryland, we operate with the understanding that each county is unique, and each jurisdiction has unique challenges. Nonetheless, we believe that this Bill would create additional burdens for Prince George's County, and produce legal inequality upon its citizens where similarly situated individuals in other jurisdictions would not face enhanced sentencing. For these reasons, we believe that the State of Maryland and the citizens of Prince George's County would be better served if this were a statewide bill.

Therefore, the County Council strongly urges a FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENT report on House Bill 1220 and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of our position.

Prepared by: Tony Perez
LA Perez Consulting, LLC
Maurice Simpson, Jr.
On behalf of Prince George's County Council



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POSITION STATEMENT

(HB 402/SB 307) Repeal of the Maryland Open Transportation
The Speaker of the House and President of the Senate on behalf of the Governor Investment Decision Act of 2016 – (Road Kill Bill Repeal)

POSITION: OPPOSE

HB 402 repeals the Maryland Open Transportation Investment Decision Act of 2016 (“The Act”) which established a scoring system where, using set criteria, transportation projects are ranked by the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) in order to define and reach the State’s transportation goals; and, to do so in a manner that is both equitable and transparent. This bill would repeal The Act in its entirety.

Ensuring safe and efficient passage on our roadways for the traveling public is an enormous responsibility that we all share. Because the ability to know and understand how critical transportation decisions are made is a right of our citizens, we believe that the Governor, and the Secretary of Maryland’s Department of Transportation should have a level of accountability when reallocating scarce transportation funding.

In Prince George’s County, we operate with the understanding that each Maryland jurisdiction is unique and has very distinctive transportation challenges. This is precisely why the planning, funding, and construction of transportation projects should be prioritized based on transportation goals such as safety and security, system preservation, quality of service, environmental stewardship, community vitality, economic prosperity, equitable access to transportation, cost effectiveness and return on investment, and local priorities and planning. To repeal The Act would remove transparency and bring back into question how transportation funding decisions are made, and whether they are equitable.

The process put in place by Maryland’s General Assembly to make transportation spending more rational, ensures fairness and objectivity and should not be repealed. Therefore, the County Council strongly urges an **UNFAVORABLE** report on House Bill 402 and respectfully requests your favorable consideration of our position.

Prince George’s County, like every other jurisdiction, has transportation issues that are unique to their area, and transportation projects designed to support our communities, economy, and environment, while ensuring safe and efficient passage on our roadways for the traveling public.

All Maryland residents should have the ability to know and understand how critical decisions are made.



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Prepared by: Tony Perez
 LA Perez Consulting
 Jennifer A. Jenkins
 On behalf of Prince George's County Council