

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE REPORT

2024 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CB-022-2024

Draft No.: 2

Committee: TIEE

Date: 3/26/2024

Action: FAV(A)

REPORT:

Committee Vote: Favorable as Amended, 5-0 (In Favor: Council Members Olson, Harrison, Burroughs, Dernoga, and Fisher).

The Committee convened on March 26, 2024, to discuss CB-22-2024, which is part of a legislative package (along with CB-20-2024 and CB-21-2024) proposing updates to Subtitle 25 (Trees & Vegetation) and Subtitle 24 (Subdivision Ordinance) of the County Code. These changes are needed to implement the required program changes outlined in the Maryland Forest Conservation Act (FCA) of 2023 (SB 526/ HB 723-2023) as approved by the Governor on May 8, 2023. The overarching goals of the changes include no net loss of forest (and even to demonstrate gain), simplifying the clearing replacement calculations, and making the process more transparent to the public.

CB-22-2024 amends Sections 24-2300 (Definitions) and 24-4300 (Environmental Standards) of Subtitle 24 (Subdivision Regulations), to replace the term “Environmental Strategy Area (ESA)” with the term “Development Location” and to increase stream buffer widths to 75 feet within Transit Oriented Centers and 100 feet outside of Transit Oriented Centers. The Environmental Strategy Area term is outdated.

Staff proposed technical amendments, as well as a substantive amendment regarding the effective date. The Committee voted favorably on all amendments.

After discussion, the Committee voted favorably on CB-22-2024 as amended by a vote of 5-0.