



# Prince George's County Council

## Agenda Item Summary

**Meeting Date:** 11/19/2024

**Effective Date:**

**Reference No.:** CB-092-2024

**Chapter Number:**

**Draft No.:** 2

**Public Hearing Date:** 11/19/2024 @ 10:00 AM

**Proposer(s):** Watson

**Sponsor(s):** Watson and Fisher

**Item Title:** AN EMERGENCY ACT CONCERNING COUNTY COUNCIL SPECIAL PRIMARY ELECTIONS AND SPECIAL GENERAL ELECTIONS for the purpose of providing for a special primary election and special general election to fill a vacancy on the County Council; providing for the adoption of a certain Resolution regarding a certain vacancy; providing for certain dates for a special primary election and a special general election; providing for a certain conduct of elections pursuant to State law; providing for a ballot by petition; providing for the nomination of candidates of non-principal political parties; repealing a certain candidate statement; providing for references to the voting for an At-Large seat; providing for references to the Local Board of Elections; providing for references to special primary elections and special general elections; making this Act an emergency bill; providing for the effective date of this Act; providing for the adoption of this Act; and generally regarding special primary elections and special general elections in Prince George’s County.

**Drafter:** Kathy Canning, Legislative Attorney

**Resource Personnel:** Debra F. Carter, Council District 2

### LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Acting Body:</b>	<b>Action:</b>	<b>Sent To:</b>
09/24/2024	County Council	presented and referred	COW
	<b>Action Text:</b> This Council Bill was presented by Council Member Watson and referred to the Committee of the Whole.		
10/08/2024	COW	amended (1)	
	<b>Action Text:</b> A motion was made by Council Member Fisher, seconded by Council Member Burroughs, that this Council Bill be amended. The motion carried by the following vote:  Aye: 7 Harrison, Dernoga, Blegay, Burroughs, Fisher, Olson and Watson  Absent: 3 Ivey, Hawkins and Oriadha		

10/08/2024 COW motion failed

**Action Text:**

A motion was made by Council Member Fisher, seconded by Council Member Burroughs, that this Council Bill be Favorably recommended with amendments. The motion failed by the following vote:

Aye: 5 Harrison, Burroughs, Fisher, Olson and Watson

Absent: 3 Ivey, Hawkins and Oriadha

Abstain: 2 Dernoga and Blegay

10/08/2024 COW Held in Committee

**Action Text:**

A motion was made by Council Member Fisher, seconded by Council Member Burroughs, that this Council Bill be Held in Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 Harrison, Dernoga, Blegay, Burroughs, Fisher, Olson and Watson

Absent: 3 Ivey, Hawkins and Oriadha

10/22/2024 COW amended

**Action Text:**

A motion was made by Council Member Oriadha, seconded by Council Member Fisher, that this Council Bill be amended. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 Harrison, Blegay, Burroughs, Fisher, Olson, Oriadha and Watson

Absent: 2 Ivey and Hawkins

Abstain: 1 Dernoga

10/22/2024 COW Favorably recommended with amendments

**Action Text:**

A motion was made by Council Member Fisher, seconded by Council Member Watson, that this Council Bill be Favorably recommended with amendments. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 Harrison, Blegay, Burroughs, Fisher, Olson, Oriadha and Watson

Absent: 2 Ivey and Hawkins

Abstain: 1 Dernoga

10/22/2024 County Council introduced

**Action Text:**

This Council Bill was introduced by Council Members Watson and Fisher.

11/19/2024 County Council public hearing held

**Action Text:**

The public hearing for this Council Bill was held.

11/19/2024 County Council amended (1)

**Action Text:**

A motion was made by Council Member Fisher, seconded by Council Member Watson, that this Council Bill be amended. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 Harrison, Burroughs, Fisher, Olson, Oriadha and Watson

Absent: 2 Ivey and Hawkins

Abstain: 2 Dernoga and Blegay

11/19/2024 County Council motion failed

**Action Text:**

A motion was made by Council Member Fisher, seconded by Council Member Watson, that this Council Bill be enacted. The motion failed by the following vote:

Aye: 6 Harrison, Burroughs, Fisher, Olson, Oriadha and Watson

Absent: 2 Ivey and Hawkins

Abstain: 2 Dernoga and Blegay

**AFFECTED CODE SECTIONS:**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION/FISCAL IMPACT:**

This is an emergency bill concerning County Council Special Primary Elections and Special General Elections in Prince George's County, In June 2024, the Office of the Attorney General advised that the provisions of County law governing the scheduling of a County Council special general election was incompatible with requirements imposed by State law for the conduct of a special election. This bill seeks to remedy the inconsistencies by requiring at least one-hundred (100) calendar days from a vacancy to a special primary election and at least one-hundred (100) calendar days from a special primary election to a special general election. In accordance with the provisions of Section 317 of the Charter, the County Council hereby declares that a public emergency exists affecting the public health, safety, and welfare; said emergency being having the County special primary elections law and special general elections law comport with State election legal requirements; and the potential for a special primary election and special general election for a County Council seat vacancy.

**Document(s):** B2024092, CB-092-2024 Report, CB-092-2024 PAFI, CB-092-2024 Proposed Amendment #1