

Bill No.: _____
Requested: _____
Committee: _____

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By: **Montgomery County Delegation and Prince George’s County Delegation**

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Montgomery County and Prince George’s County – Zoning and Land Use –**
3 **Fairness in Zoning**

4 **MC/PG 115–25**

5 FOR the purpose of providing that, in Prince George’s County, the planning board’s
6 authority over zoning and subdivision matters is not exclusive and may be subject to
7 review by the district council under certain circumstances; authorizing the district
8 council in Prince George’s County to adopt and amend zoning law procedures for
9 certain zoning decisions; providing that in the regional district in Prince George’s
10 County, certain zoning powers granted to a planning commission or board of appeals
11 shall be construed as vested exclusively in and may be exercised only by the district
12 council; altering the standing requirements for requesting the district council in
13 Prince George’s County to review the decision of the zoning hearing examiner or the
14 county planning board under certain circumstances; altering, in Prince George’s
15 County, the standing requirements for filing a request for judicial review of certain
16 decisions of a board of appeals to the circuit court; altering, in Prince George’s
17 County, the time frame within which a zoning hearing examiner shall take action on
18 a certain zoning matter remanded back from the district council; providing that a
19 certain approval shall expire at a certain time; prohibiting, in Prince George’s
20 County, the district council from amending the zoning laws or zoning classification
21 of certain property in a certain manner; and generally relating to zoning and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 planning powers in the Maryland–Washington Regional District in Prince George’s
2 County.

3 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
4 Article – Land Use
5 Section 20–202(a), 22–104, 22–120, and 25–213
6 Annotated Code of Maryland
7 (2012 Volume and 2024 Supplement)

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
9 Article – Land Use
10 Section 25–101
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2012 Volume and 2024 Supplement)

13 BY repealing
14 Article – Land Use
15 Section 25–212
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2012 Volume and 2024 Supplement)

18 BY adding to
19 Article – Land Use
20 Section 25–212, 25–214, and 25–215
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2012 Volume and 2024 Supplement)

23 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
24 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

25 **Article – Land Use**

26 20–202.

27 (a) (1) **(I)** Subject to **SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH AND**
28 paragraph (2) of this subsection, a county planning board:

1 [(i)] 1. is responsible for planning, subdivision, and zoning
2 functions that are primarily local in scope; and

3 [(ii)] 2. shall exercise, within the county planning board’s
4 jurisdiction, the following powers:

5 [1.] A. planning;

6 [2.] B. zoning;

7 [3.] C. subdivision;

8 [4.] D. assignment of street names and house numbers;
9 and

10 [5.] E. any related matter.

11 (ii) 1. IN PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY:

12 A. THE AUTHORITY OF THE COUNTY PLANNING BOARD
13 OVER ZONING AND SUBDIVISION MATTERS, BOTH LOCAL AND GENERAL, IS NOT
14 EXCLUSIVE AND SHALL BE SUBJECT TO REVIEW AND FINAL ACTION BY THE DISTRICT
15 COUNCIL; BUT

16 B. ANY REVIEW AND FINAL ACTION IS LIMITED TO THE
17 MATTER THAT IS BROUGHT BEFORE THE DISTRICT COUNCIL.

18 2. NOTHING IN THIS SUBPARAGRAPH AUTHORIZES THE
19 DISTRICT COUNCIL TO REVIEW MATTERS THAT ARE OTHERWISE BEYOND ITS
20 JURISDICTION AS PROVIDED IN THIS ARTICLE.

21 (2) The functions under paragraph (1) of this subsection do not include the
22 regional planning functions of the Commission relating to or affecting the regional district
23 as a planning unit.

1 (a) The Montgomery County district council or the Prince George's County
2 district council, in accordance with the requirements of this division as to the portion of the
3 regional district located in the respective county, may:

4 (1) by local law adopt and amend the text of the zoning law for that county;
5 and

6 (2) by local law adopt and amend any map accompanying the text of the
7 zoning law for that county.

8 (b) **IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, THE DISTRICT COUNCIL MAY BY LOCAL
9 LAW ADOPT AND AMEND ZONING LAW PROCEDURES FOR ZONING DECISIONS BY THE
10 PLANNING BOARD AND THE DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

11 (c) The local law may regulate:

12 (1) (i) the location, height, bulk, and size of each building or other
13 structure, and any unit in the building or structure;

14 (ii) building lines;

15 (iii) minimum frontage;

16 (iv) the depth and area of each lot; and

17 (v) the percentage of a lot that may be occupied;

18 (2) the size of lots, yards, courts, and other open spaces;

19 (3) the construction of temporary stands and structures;

20 (4) the density and distribution of population;

21 (5) the location and uses of buildings and structures and any units in those
22 buildings and structures for:

23 (i) trade;

- 1 (ii) industry;
- 2 (iii) residential purposes;
- 3 (iv) recreation;
- 4 (v) agriculture;
- 5 (vi) public activities; and
- 6 (vii) other purposes; and

7 (6) the uses of land, including surface, subsurface, and air rights for the
 8 land, for building or for any of the purposes described in item (5) of this subsection.

9 **[(c)] (D)** The exercise of authority by a district council under this section is
 10 limited by §§ 17–402 and 25–211 of this article.

11 22–120.

12 **(A)** Within the regional district **IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY**, any power granted
 13 to a planning commission or board of appeals under Division I of this article shall be
 14 construed as vested exclusively in and may be exercised only by:

- 15 (1) the Commission; or
- 16 (2) the board of appeals created or authorized by this title.

17 **(B) WITHIN THE REGIONAL DISTRICT IN PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY, ANY**
 18 **ZONING POWER GRANTED TO A PLANNING COMMISSION OR BOARD OF APPEALS**
 19 **UNDER DIVISION I OF THIS ARTICLE SHALL BE CONSTRUED AS VESTED**
 20 **EXCLUSIVELY IN AND MAY BE EXERCISED ONLY BY THE DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

21 25–101.

22 This title applies only in Prince George’s County.

23 **[25–212.**

1 In Prince George’s County, a person may make a request to the district council for
2 the review of a decision of the zoning hearing examiner or the county planning board only
3 if:

4 (1) the person is an aggrieved person that appeared at the hearing before
5 the zoning hearing examiner or county planning board in person, by an attorney, or in
6 writing; and

7 (2) the review is expressly authorized under this division.]

8 **25–212.**

9 **NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LAW, A PERSON MAY FILE A REQUEST FOR**
10 **JUDICIAL REVIEW OF A DECISION OF THE BOARD OF APPEALS TO THE CIRCUIT**
11 **COURT ONLY IF:**

12 **(1) THE PERSON IS A PARTY TO, OR DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THE**
13 **DECISION OF THE BOARD OF APPEALS;**

14 **(2) THE PERSON RESIDES WITHIN 1 MILE OF THE PROPERTY THAT IS**
15 **THE SUBJECT OF THE DECISION; OR**

16 **(3) THE PERSON RESIDES IN THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION WHERE**
17 **THE PROPERTY THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THE DECISION IS LOCATED.**

18 **25–213.**

19 In Prince George’s County, when the district council is hearing a zoning matter that
20 has been appealed from a decision of a zoning hearing examiner, the district council:

21 (1) may remand the zoning matter back to the zoning hearing examiner
22 [only one time]; and

23 (2) shall specify that the zoning hearing examiner take action within [30]
24 **100** days after the matter is remanded [and relevant information is received from the
25 applicant or the district council].

1 **25-214.**

2 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “APPROVAL” INCLUDES:

3 (1) AN ACTION BY THE PLANNING BOARD, DISTRICT COUNCIL, OR
4 OTHER COUNTY PERMITTING DEPARTMENT ON AN APPLICATION FOR:

5 (I) A ZONING SPECIAL EXCEPTION;

6 (II) A ZONING VARIANCE; OR

7 (III) A CONDITIONAL ZONING USE;

8 (2) A DEVELOPMENT OR SUBDIVISION APPROVAL REQUIRED TO BE
9 OBTAINED FROM THE PLANNING BOARD OR DISTRICT COUNCIL, INCLUDING:

10 (I) A SITE PLAN APPROVAL;

11 (II) A DEVELOPMENT PLAN APPROVAL; OR

12 (III) ANY OTHER DEVELOPMENT OR SUBDIVISION APPROVAL
13 AUTHORIZED OR REQUIRED BY THIS ARTICLE OR LOCAL LAW; OR

14 (3) ANY OTHER APPROVAL BY, OR AGREEMENT WITH, THE COUNTY
15 PLANNING BOARD OR DISTRICT COUNCIL THAT IS ASSOCIATED WITH AN
16 APPLICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT OR SUBDIVISION APPROVAL.

17 (B) BEGINNING WITH APPROVALS ISSUED ON JULY 1, 2025, AN APPROVAL
18 SHALL EXPIRE ON THE LATER OF THE PERIOD ESTABLISHED BY THE COUNTY OR 10
19 YEARS AFTER THE DATE THE APPROVAL WAS ISSUED.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read
21 as follows:

22 **Article – Land Use**

23 **25-215.**

1 **NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LAW, THE DISTRICT COUNCIL MAY NOT**
2 **AMEND THE TEXT OR MAP OF THE ZONING LAW OR THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF**
3 **PROPERTY THAT IS CURRENTLY USED AS, OR ITS IMMEDIATE FORMER USE WAS AS,**
4 **AN AIRPORT IN ORDER TO PERMIT THE CONSTRUCTION OF MULTIFAMILY**
5 **RESIDENTIAL DWELLINGS ON THE PROPERTY.**

6 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 2 of this Act shall be
7 construed to apply only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any
8 effect on or application to any property for which a building permit to construct multifamily
9 residential dwellings has been issued before the effective date of this Act.

10 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
11 1, 2025.