

Bill No.: _____

Requested: _____

Committee: _____

Drafted by: Bennett

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By: **Montgomery County Delegation and Prince George’s County Delegation**
Requested by: Delegate Palakovich Carr

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Montgomery County Planning Board and Washington Suburban Sanitary**
3 **Commission – Open Meetings – Live Streaming Requirement**

4 **MC/PG 101–25**

5 FOR the purpose of altering the requirement that the Montgomery County Planning Board
6 and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, respectively, stream live video
7 or audio of their open meetings to apply only to meetings held at certain locations;
8 and generally relating to open meetings of the Montgomery County Planning Board
9 and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Land Use
12 Section 20–202(e)
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2012 Volume and 2024 Supplement)

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 Article – Public Utilities
17 Section 17–106(e)
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

3 **Article – Land Use**

4 20–202.

5 (e) (1) This subsection applies only to the Montgomery County Planning
6 Board.

7 (2) The Board shall:

8 (i) stream live video or live teleconference audio or other audio of
9 the open meetings of the Board **ONLY IF THE MEETING IS HELD AT:**

10 **1. THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE BOARD; OR**

11 **2. A LOCATION WHERE THE BOARD HELD AT LEAST 10**
12 **MEETINGS DURING THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING CALENDAR YEAR;**

13 (ii) maintain on its website a complete and unedited archived
14 recording of each open meeting that is livestreamed in accordance with this subsection; and

15 (iii) notwithstanding § 3–306(b)(2)(i) of the General Provisions
16 Article:

17 1. prepare minutes of each meeting as soon as practicable
18 after the meeting; and

19 2. publish and maintain on its website the minutes of each
20 open meeting prepared in accordance with this subsection.

21 (3) The inability of the Board to comply with paragraph (2)(i) and (ii) of this
22 subsection due to technical failure that entirely prevents or otherwise affects the quality of
23 the live video or audio streaming of a meeting of the Board does not affect the validity of
24 any action taken by the Board during the meeting if:

1 (i) the Board otherwise complies with this subsection and the Open
2 Meetings Act; and

3 (ii) the inability to comply is not due to willful action by the Board.

4 (4) In addition to complying with the minutes requirements of the Open
5 Meetings Act under § 3–306 of the General Provisions Article, if the Board is unable to
6 comply with paragraph (2)(i) of this subsection, the Board shall make good–faith efforts to
7 record an open meeting by video or audio and maintain on its website a complete and
8 unedited archived recording of the meeting.

9 **Article – Public Utilities**

10 17–106.

11 (e) (1) The Commission shall:

12 (i) stream live video or live teleconference audio or other audio of
13 the open meetings of the Commission **ONLY IF THE MEETING IS HELD AT:**

14 **1. THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE COMMISSION; OR**

15 **2. A LOCATION WHERE THE COMMISSION HELD AT**
16 **LEAST 10 MEETINGS DURING THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING CALENDAR YEAR; and**

17 (ii) maintain on its website a complete and unedited archived
18 recording of each open meeting that is livestreamed in accordance with this subsection.

19 (2) The inability of the Commission to comply with paragraph (1) of this
20 subsection due to technical failure that entirely prevents or otherwise affects the quality of
21 the live video or audio streaming of a meeting of the Commission does not affect the validity
22 of any action taken by the Commission during the meeting if:

23 (i) the Commission otherwise complies with this section and the
24 Open Meetings Act; and

25 (ii) the inability to comply is not due to willful action by the
26 Commission.

1 (3) In addition to complying with the minutes requirements of the Open
2 Meetings Act under § 3–306 of the General Provisions Article, if the Commission is unable
3 to comply with the requirements of paragraph (1)(i) of this subsection, the Commission
4 shall make good faith efforts to record an open session by video or audio and maintain on
5 its website a complete and unedited archived recording of the meeting.

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
7 1, 2025.