



COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

APPROVED

Monday, January 24, 2022

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland convened via video conference at 12:33 P.M. on Monday, January 24, 2022.

PRESENT

Councilmember Gabe Albornoz, President	Councilmember Evan Glass, Vice President
Councilmember Andrew Friedson	Councilmember Tom Hucker
Councilmember Sidney Katz	Councilmember Nancy Navarro
Councilmember Craig Rice	

ABSENT

Councilmember Will Jawando	Councilmember Hans Riemer
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The President in the Chair.

GENERAL BUSINESS

A. **DISCUSSION** - State Legislative Program

Participating in the discussion were Mrs. McCartney-Green, Legislative Attorney, and Ms. Wegner, Federal Relations Coordinator and Legislative Analyst, Office of Intergovernmental Relations (OIR).

Discussed State legislative matters and the Governor's FY23 budget.

Supported without objection all staff recommendations regarding the Council's position on bills discussed as follows:

- House Bill 89, Child Care Stabilization Grant Program and Child Care Expansion Grant Program - Established

Approved staff recommendation to support this bill without objection among those present. Mr. Friedson and Mr. Hucker were temporarily absent.

- House Bill 114, Access to Counsel in Immigration Proceedings Program

Approved staff recommendation to support this bill without objection among those present. Mr. Friedson and Mr. Hucker were temporarily absent.

- Senate Bill 2233, Landlord and Tenant - Eviction Actions Filing - Surcharge and Prohibited Lease Provisions

Approved staff recommendation to support this bill without objection among those present. Mr. Friedson and Mr. Hucker were temporarily absent.

- Senate Bill 6, Landlord and Tenant - Residential Leases - Tenant Rights and Protections (Tenant Protection Act of 2022)

Approved staff recommendation to support this bill without objection among those present. Mr. Friedson and Mr. Hucker were temporarily absent.

- Senate Bill 139, Public Health - Semipublic Pools - Lifeguards

Approved staff recommendation to oppose this bill without objection among those present. Mr. Glass and Mr. Hucker were temporarily absent.

Mr. Albornoz noted that the County recently enacted reasonable guidelines for lifeguard requirements at fitness centers and other small-size pools.

Mr. Katz and Mr. Rice also voiced support to oppose this bill as the Council's legislation is appropriate for Montgomery County.

- Senate Bill 99, Cigarettes, Tobacco Products, and Electronic Smoking Devices - Local Law Authorization

Approved staff recommendations to support this bill without objection among those present. Mr. Glass and Mr. Hucker were temporarily absent.

Mr. Albornoz, Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee, shared that the County has been aggressive regarding the regulations for the sale of tobacco and use, including vaping. He shared his support for the regulation of hookahs and supports the staff recommendation to support this bill.

- Senate Bill 158, State Board of Elections - Contracts and Invoices - Requirements

Approved staff recommendations to support this bill without objection among those present. Mr. Glass and Mr. Hucker were temporarily absent.

Ms. Navarro, Chair of the Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee, voiced her support of this bill as it aligns with the Council's work and priorities.

- Senate Bill 163, Election Law - Ballots - Processing and Reporting Procedures

Supported staff recommendation to support this bill among those present. Mr. Glass and Mr. Hucker were temporarily absent.

- House Bill 307, Environment - Packaging Materials - Producer Responsibility

Approved staff recommendations to support this bill without objection among those present. Mr. Glass and Mr. Hucker were temporarily absent.

Ms. Wegner shared an overview of the Governor's FY23 budget, noting that it includes significant funding for Montgomery College and the Universities at Shady Grove, funding for the Health Formula Grant and Police Aid Formula, salary enhancements to address high vacancy rates in the State workforce, cybersecurity funding, the local government trust, heavily funds infrastructure projects, public school construction and the Built to Learn Act funding. Additionally, the Governor's plan includes efforts to reduce taxes for retirees and attempts to remove the sunset for the refundable earned income tax credit program.

Mr. Albornoz asked Ms. Wegner for feedback on the Maryland delegation's reaction for the proposed programs. She indicated the strongest interest in the public safety proposals and expects that staff will review the package meticulously.

Mr. Rice asked about the reduction in funding from the State, primarily for the Board of Education retirement contributions. Ms. Wegner noted that the normal cost of retirement contributions will be passed onto the County government and agreed to provide more details on this cost shift to local governments. In response to Mr. Rice's question about using the funding to train police, Ms. Wegner will provide Mr. Rice with the Governor's

public safety proposal. She was not aware if there are any restrictions on the use of the funding but noted there are grants that can be applied for to offset costs for public safety efforts, including training.

The meeting adjourned at 12:59 P.M.

This is a correct copy of Council action.



Selena Mendy Singleton, Esq.
Clerk of the Council