

Bill No. 23-12  
Concerning: Administration -- Open  
[[Government]] Data  
Revised: 12/4/2012 Draft No. 6  
Introduced: July 31, 2012  
Enacted: December 4, 2012  
Executive: December 17, 2012  
Effective: March 18, 2013  
Sunset Date: None  
Ch. 27, Laws of Mont. Co. 2012

## COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

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By: Councilmembers Riemer and Andrews, Council President Berliner, and Councilmembers  
Leventhal, Floreen, Navarro, and Ervin

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**AN ACT** to:

- (1) require the County to make certain public data sets available on a single web portal on the internet;
- (2) require the ~~[[Department of Technology Services]]~~ County to develop a technical standards manual for publishing public data sets;
- (3) require the County to develop ~~[[a Compliance]]~~ an Open Data Implementation Plan;
- (4) require the County to include on the single web portal, a website that includes certain information on requests submitted to the County under the Maryland Public Information Act and the County's response to that request;
- (5) require the Chief Administrative Officer to report to the Council on the Executive Branch's ~~[[compliance with]]~~ responses to the Maryland Public Information Act; and
- (6) generally amend County law regarding administration.

By adding

Montgomery County Code  
Chapter 2, Administration  
Article XIV, Open ~~[[Government]]~~ Data  
Sections 2-152, 2-152, 2-153, 2-154, 2-155, 2-156, 2-157, ~~[[and]]~~ 2-158, and 2-159

<b>Boldface</b>	<i>Heading or defined term.</i>
<u>Underlining</u>	<i>Added to existing law by original bill.</i>
<del>[Single boldface brackets]</del>	<i>Deleted from existing law by original bill.</i>
<u>Double underlining</u>	<i>Added by amendment.</i>
<del>[[Double boldface brackets]]</del>	<i>Deleted from existing law or the bill by amendment.</i>
* * *	<i>Existing law unaffected by bill.</i>

*The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following Act:*

1           **Sec. 1. Article XIV (Sections 2-152, 2-152, 2-153, 2-154, 2-155, 2-156,**  
 2 **2-157, ~~and~~ 2-158, and 2-159) is added to Chapter 2 as follows:**

3                           **Article XIV. Open ~~Government~~ Data.**

4 **2-152. Title.**

5           This Article is known as the "Montgomery County Open ~~Government~~ Data  
 6 Act."

7 **2-153. Definitions.**

8           In this Article, the following words and phrases have the following meanings:

9           Agency means any department or office~~[], department, division, board,~~  
 10 committee, commission]] of the County government.

11 Data means the final version of digital information:

12           (a) (i) in a structured, statistical, or alphanumeric form (i.e., list,  
 13 table, graph, chart, or other non-narrative form) that can  
 14 be digitally transmitted or processed; or

15           (ii) in an unstructured, factual, or content form (i.e., fact  
 16 sheet, memorandum, press release, compliance guidance,  
 17 manual, or other narrative form) that can be digitally  
 18 transmitted or processed; and

19           (b) regularly created or maintained by or on behalf of and owned  
 20 by an agency that records a file, measurement, transaction, or  
 21 ~~determination]] final decision related to the mission of an~~  
 22 agency.

23 Data does not include any information provided to an agency by another  
 24 government entity; or any image file, such as a design, drawing, map, photo,  
 25 or scanned copy of an original document. ~~[[Data includes statistical or~~  
 26 factual information about the image file and geographic information system  
 27 data.]]

28 [[Department means the Department of Technology Services.]]

29 [[Determination means any agency's final decision about a person,  
30 including:

31 (a) eligibility for services or benefits;

32 (b) issuing a permit;

33 (c) registration, certification and licensing; and

34 (d) liability for civil and criminal penalties.]]

35 Maryland Public Information Act or Act means the Maryland Public  
36 Information Act, codified at Sections 10-611 through 10-630 of the State  
37 Government Article of the Maryland Code.

38 Measurement means to quantify any characteristic of an observable event,  
39 occurrence, or object by comparison to a reference standard.

40 Open Data Implementation Plan means a plan developed by the Chief  
41 Administrative Officer to implement this Article and as further described in  
42 Section 2-158.

43 Open standard means a technical standard developed and maintained by a  
44 voluntary consensus standards body that is available to the public without  
45 royalty or fee.

46 Public data set means [[a comprehensive collection of interrelated data that  
47 is available for inspection by the public under any provision of law and is  
48 maintained on a computer system by, or on behalf of, an agency.]] data  
49 identified as eligible for publication by the Open Data Implementation Plan.

50 Public data set does not include any portion of a data set that is not subject  
51 to disclosure under any Federal or State law, including the Maryland Public  
52 Information Act.

53 Technical standard means:

- 54 (a) the common and repeated use of a rule, condition, guideline, or  
 55 characteristic for any product or related process and production  
 56 method, and related management systems practice; and
- 57 (b) (1) the definition of a term;  
 58 (2) classification of a component;  
 59 (3) delineation of a procedure;  
 60 (4) specification of dimension, material, performance,  
 61 design, or operation;  
 62 (5) measurement of quality and quantity in describing any  
 63 material, process, product, system, service, or practice;  
 64 (6) test method and sampling procedure; or  
 65 (7) description of fit and measurement of size or strength.

66 Transaction means any interaction between an agency and any person  
 67 related to the mission of an agency.

68 Voluntary consensus standards body means a domestic or international  
 69 organization that develops and maintains a technical standard that uses a  
 70 transparent deliberative process, permits the participation of any party, and  
 71 achieves general consensus, although not necessarily unanimity, of the  
 72 participating parties, including a process to attempt to resolve any difference  
 73 in viewpoint.

74 **2-154. Public data set availability.**

- 75 (a) [[An agency]] The County must make [[a]] some public data sets  
 76 available on a single web portal on the Internet within 1 year after this  
 77 Article takes effect. Every agency must make at least one public data  
 78 set available to be published on a single web portal within the  
 79 timeframe prescribed by the Open Data Implementation Plan. The  
 80 Open Data Implementation Plan must assign and prioritize by

81 subcategories the order in which public data sets should be published.  
 82 To prioritize public data sets in the Open Data Implementation Plan,  
 83 the Chief Administrative Officer must consider whether information  
 84 embodied in the public data set:

- 85 (1) can be used to increase agency accountability and  
 86 responsiveness;  
 87 (2) improves public knowledge of the agency and its operations;  
 88 (3) further the mission of the agency;  
 89 (4) creates economic opportunity; or  
 90 (5) responds to a need or demand identified by public consultation.

91 [[If an agency cannot make a public data set available, the agency  
 92 must report to Executive and Council:

- 93 (1) which public data set it is unable to make available;  
 94 (2) the reasons why the agency cannot make the public data set  
 95 available; and  
 96 (3) the date by which the agency expects the public data set to be  
 97 available on the single web portal.]]

98 (b) Any published public data set that an agency makes available on the  
 99 Internet must be accessible through a single web portal that is linked  
 100 to [www.montgomerycountymd.gov](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov) or any successor website  
 101 maintained by, or on behalf of, the County.

102 (c) A public data set must be made available as specified in technical  
 103 standards [[identified by Method 2 regulation]].

104 (d) A public data set must be published in a format that permits  
 105 automated processing and must make use of appropriate technology to  
 106 notify the public of all updates.

- 107 (e) Once published, a [[A]] public data set must be updated as often as is  
108 [[necessary to preserve the integrity and usefulness of the data set to  
109 the extent that the agency regularly maintains or updates the public  
110 data set]] required by the Open Data Implementation Plan.
- 111 (f) A published public data set must be made available without any  
112 registration or license requirement or restriction on use. However, the  
113 [[Department]] County may require a third party providing to the  
114 public any public data set, or application utilizing that data set, to  
115 explicitly identify the source and version of the public data set and  
116 describe any modification made to that data set. In this Section,  
117 registration or license requirement or restriction does not include any  
118 measure required to:
- 119 (1) assure access to a public data set;  
120 (2) protect the single web site housing a public data set from  
121 unlawful abuse or an attempt to damage or impair use of the  
122 web site; or  
123 (3) analyze the type of data being used to improve service delivery.
- 124 (g) A published public data set must be accessible to external search  
125 capabilities.
- 126 (h) Nothing in this Article prohibits an agency from: (1) voluntarily  
127 disclosing information not otherwise defined as data; or (2) making  
128 voluntarily disclosed information accessible through the single web  
129 portal.
- 130 (i) [[After a public data set has been available on the web portal for 6  
131 months, an agency must not change or terminate collection of data or  
132 remove the data set from public access without the approval of the  
133 Chief Administrative Officer or the Chief Administrative Officer's

134 designee.]] The Open Data Implementation Plan must address when

135 and how an agency may change or terminate collection of data or

136 remove the public data set from public access.

- 137 (j) [[The Chief Administrative Officer must assign appropriate staff to
- 138 manage the public data sets.]] The Open Data Implementation Plan
- 139 must address appropriate staffing to manage the published public data
- 140 sets.

141 **2-155. Web portal administration.**

- 142 (a) The [[Department may take reasonable measures]] Open Data
- 143 Implementation Plan must address measures to maintain bandwidth
- 144 availability of the web portal.
- 145 (b) The [[Department]] County must conspicuously publish the open data
- 146 [[legal]] policy in Section 2-156 on the web portal.
- 147 (c) The [[Department]] County must implement [[an on-line forum]] a
- 148 mechanism to solicit public feedback and encourage public discussion
- 149 on open data policies and public data set availability on the web
- 150 portal.
- 151 (d) An agency must consider any request that it receives through the [[on-
- 152 line forum]] public feedback mechanism to include a particular public
- 153 data set when making any determination as to priority for public data
- 154 set inclusion on the single web portal. An agency's consideration of
- 155 such a request must defer to the priority assigned to publication by the
- 156 Open Data Implementation Plan.

157 **2-156. Open data [[legal]] policy.**

- 158 (a) A public data set made available on the web portal is provided for
- 159 informational purposes. The County [[does not]] makes no express or
- 160 implied warranty as to the completeness, accuracy, content,

161 merchantability, or fitness for any particular purpose or use of any  
 162 public data set made available on the web portal[[, and no warranty is  
 163 implied with respect to any public data set on the web portal]].

164 (b) The County is not liable for any deficiency in the completeness,  
 165 accuracy, content, or fitness for any particular purpose or use of any  
 166 public data set, or application utilizing the data set, provided by any  
 167 third party.

168 (c) This Article and the Open Data Implementation Plan [[does]] do not  
 169 create a private right of action to enforce [[its]] their provisions.  
 170 Failure to comply with this Article or the Open Data Implementation  
 171 Plan must not result in liability to [[an agency]] the County.

172 **2-157. Internet data set policy and technical standards.**

173 (a) Within 180 days after this Article takes effect, the [[Department]]  
 174 County must prepare and publish a technical standards manual for the  
 175 publishing of a public data set in raw or unprocessed form through a  
 176 single web portal by an agency to make public data available to the  
 177 greatest number of users and for the greatest number of applications.

178 The manual:

179 (1) must use open standards for web publishing and e-government,  
 180 whenever practicable;

181 (2) must identify the reason why each technical standard was  
 182 selected and to which types of data it applies;

183 (3) may recommend or require that data be published in more than  
 184 one technical standard; and

185 (4) must include a plan to adopt or utilize a web application  
 186 programming interface that permits application programs to



187 request and receive public data sets directly from the web  
 188 portal.

189 (b) The [[Department]] County must update the manual as necessary.

190 (c) The [[Department]] County must consult with appropriate voluntary  
 191 consensus standards bodies and, when participation is feasible, in the  
 192 public interest, and is compatible with agency and departmental  
 193 missions, authorities, and priorities, participate with such bodies in the  
 194 development of technical and open standards.

195 **2-158. [[Agency]] Open Data [[Compliance]] Implementation Plan.**

196 (a) Within 18 months after this Article takes effect, the [[Department]]  
 197 Chief Administrative Officer must [[submit]] issue, via Method (2)  
 198 regulation, an Open Data [[a Compliance]] Implementation Plan [[to  
 199 the Executive and Council and must make the Plan available to the  
 200 public on the web portal. Each agency must cooperate with the  
 201 Department in its preparation of the Plan]]. The Plan must:

202 (1) include a summary description of a public data set under the  
 203 control of each agency on or after this Article takes effect;

204 (2) prioritize the public data sets for inclusion on the single web  
 205 portal on or before December 31, 2018, under the standards  
 206 adopted by the [[Department]] County under Section 2-157;  
 207 and

208 (3) create a timeline for their inclusion on the single web portal

209 (b) If a public data set cannot be made available on the single web portal  
 210 on or before December 31, 2018, the Open Data Implementation Plan  
 211 must state the reason why the set cannot be made available, and, to the  
 212 extent practicable, the date by which the agency in possession of the

213 public data set believes that it will be available on the single web  
 214 portal.

215 (c) [[To prioritize public data sets, an agency must consider whether  
 216 information embodied in the public data set:

217 (1) can be used to increase agency accountability and  
 218 responsiveness;

219 (2) improves public knowledge of the agency and its operations;

220 (3) further the mission of the agency;

221 (4) creates economic opportunity; or

222 (5) responds to a need or demand identified by public consultation.

223 (d)] No later than July 15, [[2014]] 2015, and every July 15 thereafter, the  
 224 [[Department]] Chief Administrative Officer must submit to the  
 225 Executive and Council, and post on the web portal, [[an update of]] a  
 226 report on the Open Data [[Compliance]] Implementation Plan [[to the  
 227 Executive and Council]] until all public data sets to be published have  
 228 been made available through a single web portal as required by this  
 229 Article. The [[update]] report must [[include]] explain:

230 (1) the specific measures taken to make a public data set available  
 231 on the single web portal since the previous [[update]] report;

232 (2) any specific measure that will be taken before the next  
 233 [[update]] report;

234 (3) [[an update to]] whether the list of public data sets, [[if  
 235 necessary]] outlined in the Open Data [[Compliance]]  
 236 Implementation Plan should be updated;

237 (4) [[any change to]] whether the prioritization of public data sets  
 238 in the Open Data [[Compliance]] Implementation Plan should  
 239 be changed; and

240 (5) [[an update to]] whether the timeline outlined in the Open Data  
 241 [[Compliance]] Implementation Plan for the inclusion of a  
 242 public data set on the single web portal, [[if necessary]] should  
 243 be changed.

244 ~~[[e]]~~ (d) If a previously unidentified public data set cannot be made  
 245 available on the single web portal on or before December 31, 2018,  
 246 the [[update]] report must explain why it cannot and, to the extent  
 247 practicable, specify the date by which the agency in possession of the  
 248 public data set believes that the public data set will be available on the  
 249 single web portal.

250 **2-15[[8]]9. Public Information Act Responses.**

251 (a) Definitions. In this Section, the following words and phrases have the  
 252 following meanings:

253 County means Montgomery County and includes any Executive Branch  
 254 department or office and any Legislative Branch [[department or]]  
 255 office.

256 Legislative Branch office means any office identified in Section 1A-203  
 257 (b), the Board of Appeals, and the Merit System Protection Board.

258 Information request means a request for documents submitted to the  
 259 County under the Maryland Public Information Act.

260 (b) The Chief Administrative Officer must identify in the Open Data  
 261 Implementation Plan what data elements and a schedule to make  
 262 available on the web portal for [[each]] information [[request submitted  
 263 to the County under]] relating to the implementation of the Maryland  
 264 Public Information Act by [[and]] the County [[County's response to  
 265 that request]].

266 (c) The Legislative Branch must post all data elements, as identified by the  
267 Open Data Implementation Plan, on the same single web portal used by  
268 the Executive Branch.

269 [[Except as provided in subsection (d), the web portal must include:

270 (1) each information request submitted to the County;

271 (2) the date when the County received the information request;

272 (3) the status of the information request;

273 (4) if the information request was not answered within 30 days after  
274 the County received it, the reason for the delay; and

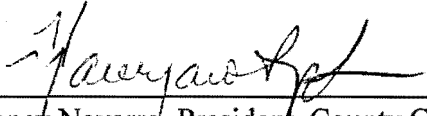
275 (5) the final response to the information request.]]

276 [[d) The Chief Administrative Officer must not include on the web portal  
277 any electronic mail address, home address, or telephone number of any  
278 individual who submitted a responsive document.]]

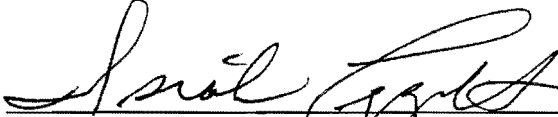
279 [[e)] (d) The Chief Administrative [[Officer]] Officer's report required by  
280 Section 2-158 must [[report quarterly to the Council on the Executive  
281 Branch's compliance with the Maryland Public Information Act The  
282 report must cite the statutory exception that supports each denial or  
283 partial denial of an information request]] include an update on  
284 implementation of this Section.

285

286 *Approved:*

287  12/6/12  
Nancy Navarro, President, County Council Date

288 *Approved:*

289  12/17/12  
Isiah Leggett, County Executive Date

290 *This is a correct copy of Council action.*

291  12/17/12  
Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council Date