

SENATE BILL 15

C8

2lr0688

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Senator Benson**

Requested: October 7, 2011

Introduced and read first time: January 11, 2012

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **The Show Place Arena in Prince George's County – Study Commission**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing The Show Place Arena Study Commission; specifying
4 the membership, chair, and staffing of the Commission; requiring the
5 Commission to perform certain duties and make certain recommendations;
6 specifying that a member of the Commission may not receive compensation, but
7 may receive certain reimbursement; requiring the Commission to report its
8 findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly on or
9 before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally
10 relating to The Show Place Arena Study Commission.

11 Preamble

12 WHEREAS, The Show Place Arena is a multipurpose arena in Upper Marlboro,
13 Maryland, which is used for concerts, sporting events, trade shows, and other events;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, The Show Place Arena is an important economic development
16 asset, which generates \$30 million annually in economic benefits for Prince George's
17 County; and

18 WHEREAS, The Show Place Arena has attracted more than 5 million visitors
19 since it opened; and

20 WHEREAS, The Show Place Arena has attracted national media attention to
21 Prince George's County, including more than 150 media outlets; and

22 WHEREAS, Unlike many other parks and recreation facilities, The Show Place
23 Arena must compete in an aggressive public assembly marketplace; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, The Show Place Arena has benefited from strong marketing and
2 outreach by its leadership in the past; however, recent administrative changes have
3 raised questions about the commitment and capacity of the Maryland–National
4 Capital Park and Planning Commission to effectively own, operate, and manage this
5 facility in the public assembly marketplace; and

6 WHEREAS, A study by the major stakeholders of The Show Place Arena is
7 necessary to determine how to protect and enhance the competitive position of The
8 Show Place Arena in the public assembly marketplace; now, therefore,

9 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
10 MARYLAND, That:

11 (a) There is a The Show Place Arena Study Commission.

12 (b) The Commission consists of the following members:

13 (1) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the Chair of
14 the Prince George’s County Senate Delegation;

15 (2) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Chair of
16 the Prince George’s County House Delegation;

17 (3) the following members, appointed by the organization the member
18 represents:

19 (i) one representative of the Baltimore Washington Corridor
20 Chamber;

21 (ii) one representative of the Prince George’s Board of Trade;

22 (iii) one representative of the Prince George’s Chamber of
23 Commerce;

24 (iv) one representative of the Prince George’s County Conference
25 and Visitors Bureau;

26 (v) one representative of the Prince George’s County Economic
27 Development Corporation;

28 (vi) one representative of the Prince George’s County Planning
29 Board;

30 (vii) one representative of the Maryland Stadium Authority; and

31 (viii) one representative of the Southern Maryland Board of
32 Trade; and

1 (4) the following members, appointed by the Prince George's County
2 Executive:

3 (i) one representative of the Prince George's County Executive's
4 Office;

5 (ii) one representative of the equine industry;

6 (iii) one representative with experience in the public assembly
7 marketplace field; and

8 (iv) one representative of the public who resides in Prince
9 George's County.

10 (c) The Prince George's County Executive shall designate the chair of the
11 Commission.

12 (d) The Prince George's County Executive's Office shall provide staff for the
13 Commission.

14 (e) A member of the Commission:

15 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Commission; but

16 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
17 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

18 (f) The Commission shall:

19 (1) examine the current mission of The Show Place Arena;

20 (2) examine the current operations of The Show Place Arena;

21 (3) examine The Show Place Arena's competitive position in the public
22 assembly marketplace;

23 (4) examine the capacity and the ability of the Maryland-National
24 Capital Park and Planning Commission to effectively own, operate, and manage The
25 Show Place Arena in the public assembly marketplace; and

26 (5) make recommendations regarding:

27 (i) the protection and enhancement of The Show Place Arena's
28 competitive position in the public assembly marketplace; and

1 (ii) the ownership, operation, and management of The Show
2 Place Arena, including:

3 1. the feasibility of transferring the ownership,
4 operation, and management of The Show Place Arena to another public entity, such as
5 the Maryland Stadium Authority; and

6 2. if the transfer of ownership, operation, and
7 management of The Show Place Arena to another public entity is not recommended,
8 the feasibility of reorganizing The Show Place Arena within the Maryland–National
9 Capital Park and Planning Commission to ensure its competitiveness in the public
10 assembly marketplace.

11 (g) On or before December 1, 2012, the Commission shall report its findings
12 and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State
13 Government Article, the General Assembly.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
15 June 1, 2012. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of May 31,
16 2013, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be
17 abrogated and of no further force and effect.