SENATE BILL 360

L2   5lr2141

By: **Calvert County Senators**
Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2015
Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1   AN ACT concerning

2   **Calvert County – Budget Hearings and Procedures**

3   FOR the purpose of altering the procedures for preparing and adopting a budget for Calvert
4   County; requiring each county department, agency, or board receiving county funds
5   to submit a certain itemized budget request on or before a date set by the County
6   Commissioners of Calvert County; requiring the County Commissioners to conduct
7   a public hearing on a certain staff–recommended budget and a subsequent public
8   hearing on the County Commissioners' budget; requiring that one of the newspapers
9   in which a notice of hearings is published be a newspaper of general circulation in
10   the county; providing that the final county budget be adopted after holding the record
11   open for a certain number of days after the hearing on the County Commissioners'
12   budget; requiring that a copy of a proposed county budget be available in a certain
13   manner for a certain minimum time period before each public hearing; making
14   stylistic changes; and generally relating to the procedures for preparing and
15   adopting a budget for Calvert County.

16   BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
17   The Public Local Laws of Calvert County
18   Section 5–102
19   Article 5 – Public Local Laws of Maryland
20   (2002 Edition and July 2014 Supplement, as amended)

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

Article 5 – Calvert County

24   5–102.

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

1   (a)   **(1)**   **[**At a public hearing held on the**]** **ON OR BEFORE A** date set by the
2   **COUNTY** Commissioners, each county department, agency, or board receiving county funds
3   shall submit to the County Commissioners and to the Director of **[**Administration and**]**
4   Finance **AND BUDGET, OR THE DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE**, an itemized budget request for
5   all funds requested for the next fiscal year **FOR COMPILATION INTO THE**
6   **STAFF–RECOMMENDED BUDGET**.

7   **(2)   (I)**   The **COUNTY** Commissioners shall **CONDUCT A PUBLIC**
8   **HEARING ON THE STAFF–RECOMMENDED BUDGET AND** publish notice of the time and
9   place of this hearing in at least two county newspapers for at least two weeks before the
10 hearing is held.

11   **(II)   AT LEAST ONE OF THE NEWSPAPERS SHALL BE A**
12 **NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION IN THE COUNTY.**

13   **(3)**   At **[**this**]** **THE** hearing **ON THE STAFF–RECOMMENDED BUDGET**,
14 county citizens may present their views on budget requests and funding levels.

15   (b)   **(1)**   **[**Before**]** **AFTER THE HEARING ON THE STAFF–RECOMMENDED**
16 **BUDGET AND BEFORE** taking final action **[**on a proposed**]** **TO ADOPT A** budget, the County
17 Commissioners shall **[**hold a**]** **CONDUCT A SECOND** public hearing to permit county
18 residents to comment on **[**it**]** **THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' BUDGET**.

19   **(2)   (I)**   The **COUNTY** Commissioners shall publish notice of the time and
20 place of the hearing **ON THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' BUDGET** in at least two county
21 newspapers for at least two weeks before the hearing is held.

22   **(II)   AT LEAST ONE OF THE NEWSPAPERS SHALL BE A**
23 **NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION IN THE COUNTY.**

24   **(3)**   **[**The**]** **AFTER HOLDING THE RECORD OPEN FOR AT LEAST 10 DAYS**
25 **AFTER THE HEARING ON THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' BUDGET, THE** final **COUNTY**
26 budget shall be adopted by a resolution approved by the **COUNTY** Commissioners.

27   (c)   **(1)**   **[**By the time of the first notice of**]** **AT LEAST 1 WEEK BEFORE EACH**
28 public hearing **ON A PROPOSED COUNTY BUDGET UNDER THIS SECTION**, the proposed
29 county budget shall be filed with the clerk of the County Commissioners and be available
30 for public inspection **ON THE COUNTY'S WEB SITE**.

31   **(2)**   One copy **OF EACH PROPOSED COUNTY BUDGET** shall be supplied to
32 each newspaper of general circulation in the county and to each branch of the county library
33 and copies shall be made available to the public at or below cost.

34   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
35 October 1, 2015.