

SENATE BILL 520

L1

3lr2020
CF 3lr2015

By: **Charles County Senators**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2023

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Code Counties – Legislative Procedure – Notice Requirements**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the notice requirements in code counties for bill hearings and
4 passage of bills; and generally relating to legislative notice requirements for code
5 counties.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article – Local Government
8 Section 9–311
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2013 Volume and 2022 Supplement)

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

13 **Article – Local Government**

14 9–311.

15 (a) A county commissioner of a code county may introduce a bill on any legislative
16 day.

17 (b) (1) (i) Not later than the next day after the introduction of a bill, the
18 presiding officer of the county commissioners shall schedule a public hearing on the bill.

19 (ii) A bill may be rejected after its introduction without a hearing by
20 a vote of at least two-thirds of the total membership of the county commissioners.

21 (2) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, the
22 public hearing on a bill shall be held not less than 7 days after introduction of the bill.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (ii) For an emergency bill, the public hearing shall be held not less
2 than 3 days after introduction of the emergency bill.

3 (3) The public hearing on a bill:

4 (i) need not be held on a legislative day; and

5 (ii) may be adjourned from time to time.

6 (c) (1) After the introduction of a bill, a copy of the bill and notice of the date,
7 time, and place of the hearing shall be posted:

8 (i) as soon as practicable;

9 (ii) **1.** on an official bulletin board in a public place in the
10 building in which the county commissioners usually meet; **OR**

11 **2. ON A WEBSITE ORDINARILY USED BY THE COUNTY**
12 **COMMISSIONERS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC; and**

13 (iii) in a manner that provides the public ready access to the copy of
14 the bill and the notice during regular business hours.

15 (2) Additional copies of the bill and notice of the hearing shall be made
16 available to the public.

17 (d) Each copy of a bill shall contain:

18 (1) the name of the county commissioner who introduced the bill; and

19 (2) the date the bill was introduced.

20 (e) (1) An amendment proposed to a bill shall be in writing.

21 (2) A copy of each amendment shall be made available for inspection by the
22 public.

23 (f) (1) After a public hearing, a bill may be finally passed on a legislative day
24 with or without amendment.

25 (2) (i) Except as provided in subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, if a
26 bill is amended before final passage, the bill may not be passed until it is reprinted as
27 amended.

28 (ii) If an emergency bill is amended before final passage, the
29 emergency bill need not be reprinted as amended.

1 (3) Except for an emergency bill, a bill may not be passed less than 7 days
2 after its introduction.

3 (g) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, to become a
4 public local law, a bill shall be passed by an affirmative vote of the majority of the total
5 membership of the county commissioners.

6 (2) An emergency bill shall be passed:

7 (i) by an affirmative vote of at least four-fifths of the total
8 membership; or

9 (ii) if the total membership is three members, by an affirmative vote
10 of at least two members.

11 (h) (1) The county commissioners shall keep a journal that shall be open to
12 public inspection at all reasonable times.

13 (2) On final passage of a bill, the yea and nay votes shall be recorded in the
14 journal.

15 (i) **(1)** Each bill that passes, or a fair summary of it, shall be:

16 **(I)** published:

17 **[(1)] 1.** in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the county;

18 **[(2)] 2.** at least three times;

19 **[(3)] 3.** at weekly intervals; and

20 **[(4)] 4.** within the 4-week period after passage of the bill; **OR**

21 **(II) POSTED ON:**

22 **1. AN OFFICIAL BULLETIN BOARD IN A PUBLIC PLACE IN**
23 **THE BUILDING IN WHICH THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS USUALLY MEET; OR**

24 **2. A WEBSITE ORDINARILY USED BY THE COUNTY**
25 **COMMISSIONERS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC.**

26 **(2) THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SHALL MAINTAIN PUBLIC ACCESS**
27 **TO THE NOTICE PROVIDED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1)(II) OF THIS SUBSECTION FOR AT**
28 **LEAST 4 CONSECUTIVE WEEKS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE PASSAGE OF THE BILL.**

29 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect

1 October 1, 2023.