



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

POSITION STATEMENT

MC/PG 109-23
Delegate Foley

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning
Commission – Members

POSITION:

SUPPORT

MC/PG 109-23 – Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission – Members – For the purpose of repealing the requirement that not more than three members of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission from each county be members of the same political party. This bill is further being amended to state that when making appointments, the respective appointing bodies should consider geographic, political, racial, ethnic, and gender diversity on the Commission. This bill would take effect October 1, 2023.

The Prince George's County Council supports removing the provision that no more than three members of the Commission from each county be members of the same political party, because the Commission's work is largely non-partisan. Thus, the members should be appointed as a result of their qualifications as a candidate and the unique perspective they will bring to the planning process in the region, regardless of political affiliation. Other provisions in statute ensure the integrity of the Commission—for example, by prohibiting the appointment of any Commissioners who could be seen as representing, supporting, or favoring any special interests. The current limit on the number of Commissioners from a single political party could hold the Commission back from appointing the most qualified members, which would hinder its ability to provide the best services possible to residents of Prince George's County.

For the foregoing reasons, the Prince George's County Council **SUPPORTS** MC/PG 109-23 and respectfully requests the Committee's favorable consideration of its position.

Prepared by: Evans & Associates
On behalf of Prince George's County Council