

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2023 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1033 (Charles County Delegation)
Environment and Transportation

Code Counties - Legislative Procedure - Notice Requirements

This bill authorizes code counties to post notices of bill hearings along with a copy of the bill on a website ordinarily used by the county commissioners to provide information to the public. The bill also establishes an alternative method of notifying the public of passed bills. In lieu of publishing each passed bill or a fair summary of each passed bill in a newspaper, as required under current law, the information may instead be posted on (1) an official bulletin board in a public place in the building in which the county commissioners usually meet or (2) a website ordinarily used by the county commissioners to provide information to the public. The county commissioners must maintain public access to bill summary notices for at least four consecutive weeks after the passage of the bill.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: Local expenditures may decrease to the extent specified notices are posted on code county websites instead of a newspaper. Local revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Generally, after the introduction of a bill, code counties are required to post a copy of the bill and notice of the date, time, and place of the hearing as soon as practicable, on an official bulletin board in a public place in the building in which the county commissioners usually meet and in a manner that provides the public ready access to the copy of the bill and the notice during regular business hours.

Additionally, code counties are generally required to publish each bill that passes, or a fair summary of each bill that passes, in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the county, at least three times, at weekly intervals, and within the four-week period after passage of the bill.

As shown in **Exhibit 1**, six counties operate under the code home rule form of government.

Exhibit 1
Form of County Government

<u>Charter</u>	<u>Commission</u>	<u>Code</u>
Anne Arundel	Calvert	Allegany
Baltimore	Carroll	Caroline
Cecil	Garrett	Charles
Dorchester	St. Mary's	Kent
Frederick	Somerset	Queen Anne's
Harford	Washington	Worcester
Howard		
Montgomery		
Prince George's		
Talbot		
Wicomico		

Source: Department of Legislative Services

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See HB 1428 of 2022.

Designated Cross File: SB 520 (Charles County Senators) - Education, Energy, and the Environment.

Information Source(s): Allegany, Caroline, Charles, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Worcester counties; Department of Legislative Services

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km/hlb

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