



POSITION STATEMENT

Bill: HB 0358 Prince George’s County – Workgroup on Health and Wellness

Position: Support with Amendments

Date: January 31, 2024

Contact: Debra Borden, General Counsel

Jordan Baucum Colbert, Government Affairs Liaison

Dear Chair Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk and Delegate Bonnie Cullison,

The Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (“the Commission” or M-NCPPC) has voted to support this bill with amendments. The Commission respectfully requests that the Health and Government Operations Committee consider these amendments and include them in the record.

Background. This bill seeks to establish a workgroup on health and wellness in Prince George’s County to review and evaluate health and wellness practices, programs, services and resources in Prince George’s County and make recommendations regarding best practices in health and wellness community programming in the County. This bill would also require the workgroup to report its findings and recommendations to the Prince George’s County Executive, the Chair of the Prince George’s County Council, the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2025.

Workgroup Members. The Prince George’s County Parks and Recreation Department (Parks Department) is a long-time supporter of the health and well-being of Prince George’s County residents. Promoting healthy eating, physical activity, and instilling habits for optimum health have also been among our top priorities. A friendly amendment to include the *M-NCPPC Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation Prince George's County, or their designee* on the workgroup would help the Parks Department continue to enhance its health priorities among community residents alongside agencies within Prince George’s County.

For these reasons, we ask that the committee provide a favorable vote and support HB 0358 with amendments.