

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

REPRODUCED AS AMENDED AND A PUBLIC HEARING SHALL BE SET THEREON AND PROCEEDINGS HAD AS IN THE CASE OF A NEWLY INTRODUCED BILL. ANY BILL NOT ENACTED BY THE LAST DAY OF NOVEMBER OF EACH YEAR SHALL BE CONSIDERED TO HAVE FAILED. TO MEET A PUBLIC EMERGENCY AFFECTING THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, OR WELFARE, THE COUNTY MAY ENACT EMERGENCY BILLS. EVERY EMERGENCY BILL SHALL BE PLAINLY DESIGNATED AS SUCH AND SHALL CONTAIN, AFTER THE ENACTING CLAUSE, A DECLARATION STATING THAT AN EMERGENCY EXISTS AND DESCRIBING THE CLAIMED EMERGENCY IN CLEAR AND SPECIFIC TERMS. THE TERM "EMERGENCY BILL" SHALL NOT INCLUDE ANY MEASURE CREATING OR ABOLISHING ANY OFFICE; CHANGING THE COMPENSATION, TERM, OR DUTY OF ANY OFFICER; GRANTING ANY FRANCHISE OR SPECIAL PRIVILEGE; OR CREATING ANY VESTED RIGHT OR INTEREST. NO BILL SHALL BE ENACTED EXCEPT BY THE AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF A MAJORITY OF THE FULL COUNCIL. NO EMERGENCY BILL SHALL BE ENACTED EXCEPT BY AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF TWO-THIRDS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE FULL COUNCIL.

SECTION 318. EFFECTIVE DATE OF LAWS. ANY LAW, EXCEPT AN EMERGENCY LAW, SHALL TAKE EFFECT FORTY-FIVE CALENDAR DAYS AFTER IT BECOMES LAW, UNLESS BY A PROVISION OF THE LAW IT IS TO TAKE EFFECT AT A LATER DATE, OR UNLESS IT IS PETITIONED TO REFERENDUM AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 319 OF THIS CHARTER.

SECTION 319. REFERENDUM. ANY LAW WHICH BECOMES LAW PURSUANT TO THIS CHARTER MAY BE PETITIONED TO REFERENDUM, EXCEPT A LAW: (1) IMPOSING A TAX; (2) APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT; (3) ESTABLISHING COUNCILMANIC DISTRICT; (4) AMENDING A ZONING MAP; OR (5) GRANTING A SPECIAL EXCEPTION TO ZONING REGULATIONS. A LAW SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO A REFERENDUM OF THE VOTERS UPON PETITION OF TEN THOUSAND (10,000) QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE COUNTY. SUCH PETITION SHALL BE FILED WITH THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ELECTIONS OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY WITHIN FORTY-FIVE CALENDAR DAYS FROM THE DATE THE BILL BECOMES LAW. IF MORE THAN ONE-THIRD BUT LESS THAN THE FULL NUMBER OF SIGNATURES REQUIRED TO COMPLETE ANY REFERENDUM PETITION AGAINST SUCH LAW BE FILED WITHIN FORTY-FIVE CALENDAR DAYS FROM THE DATE THE BILL BECOMES LAW, THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE LAW, AND THE TIME FOR FILING THE REMAINDER SIGNATURES TO COMPLETE THE PETITION SHALL BE EXTENDED FOR AN ADDITIONAL FORTY-FIVE CALENDAR DAYS. IF SUCH A PETITION IS FILED, THE LAW TO BE REFERRED SHALL NOT TAKE EFFECT UNTIL THIRTY CALENDAR DAYS AFTER ITS APPROVAL BY A