

It is the responsibility of local government to oversee development by enacting reasonable zoning ordinances. The citizens of Frederick County elect individuals to serve on the Frederick County Board of County Commissioners to carry out this responsibility. Zoning ordinances must be enacted to promote the overall health, safety and welfare of a community. While I strongly respect the right of citizens to question and protest the actions taken by their government, to allow a small number of citizens to delay the effective date of a zoning ordinance is not good public policy.

On both the State level and on the local level, if voters are dissatisfied with the actions taken by their elected officials, they have the absolute right *and* responsibility to make their opinions known at the polls. Every four years, officials must be re-elected. Rather than allowing zoning ordinances to take effect on a "piecemeal" basis, the citizens of Frederick County should hold their elected officials accountable and make their opinions known in each election.

For the above reasons, I have vetoed Senate Bill 232.

Sincerely,
Parris N. Glendening
Governor

Senate Bill No. 232

AN ACT concerning

~~Frederick County Zoning Ordinances~~ ~~Citizen's Referendum~~ Citizen's Right to Referendum Act - Zoning - Referendum

FOR the purpose of ~~allowing the citizens of Frederick County to petition certain adoptions, amendments, or repeals of certain zoning ordinances adopted by the Board of County Commissioners to referendum; providing that certain adoptions, amendments, or repeals of certain zoning ordinances may not take effect within a specified period; specifying certain procedures and requirements of a petition and the effect of a petition; requiring the Board of Supervisors of Elections of Frederick County to verify a petition; providing that certain adoptions, amendments, or repeals of certain zoning ordinances successfully petitioned to referendum shall appear on the ballot in Frederick County at the next regular election for members of the House of Representatives; providing that the adoptions, amendments, or repeals of certain zoning ordinances petitioned to referendum may not take effect until after a specified period of time following approval by a majority of voters voting on the question; making provisions of this Act severable; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the right of the citizens of Frederick County to petition certain land use decisions of the Board of County Commissioners requiring Commissioners of Frederick County to be submitted to a referendum under certain circumstances; establishing standards and procedures for a referendum on a county zoning ordinance; authorizing a special election for a county zoning referendum; providing for the effective date of a county zoning ordinance; providing for the effective date for certain provisions of this Act; making the~~