

Introduced	<u>01-05-2026</u>
Public Hearing	<u>01-20-2026</u>
Council Action	<u>02-02-2026</u>
Executive Action	<u>02-05-2026</u>
Effective Date	<u>04-07-2026</u>

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2026 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 1

Bill No. 7 -2026

Introduced by: Opel Jones

Co-Sponsored by: Christiana Rigby
David Yungmann

SHORT TITLE: Howard County Boards and Commissions - Interference – Prohibition

AN ACT prohibiting the County Council, individual Councilmembers, ~~and County Council-staff County Council staff, the County Executive, and the County Executive's staff~~ from hindering, obstructing, or disrupting the deliberations and decisions of certain County Board or Commission; and generally relating to Howard County Boards and Commissions.

Introduced and read first time Jan 5, 2026. Ordered posted and hearing scheduled.

By order Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Having been posted and notice of time & place of hearing & title of Bill having been published according to Charter, the Bill was read for a second time at a public hearing on Jan 20, 2026.

By order Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

This Bill was read the third time on Feb 2, 2026 and Passed , Passed with amendments ✓, Failed .

By order Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this 3 day of Feb, 2026 at 5⁰⁰ a.m./p.m.

By order Michelle Harrod
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Approved by the County Executive Feb 5, 2026

Calvin Ball, County Executive

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; ~~Strike-out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

1
2 **Section 1. Be It Enacted** by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that the Howard County
3 Code is amended as follows:

4 *By adding:*

5 *Title 5. "County Council"*

6 *Subtitle 6. "Noninterference with Boards and Commissions"*

7 *Section 5.600. "Noninterference with Boards and Commissions"*

10 **Title 5. County Council**

11 **Subtitle 6. Noninterference with Boards and Commissions**

12 **SEC. 5.600. NONINTERFERENCE WITH BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

13 (A) NEITHER THE COUNTY COUNCIL NOR ANY OF ITS MEMBERS OR STAFF SHALL TAKE ANY
14 ACTION TO HINDER, OBSTRUCT, OR DISRUPT THE DELIBERATIONS OR DECISIONS OF ANY BOARD
15 OR COMMISSION PROVIDED FOR IN SUBSECTION ~~(D)~~ (C) OF THIS SECTION.

16 (B) EXCEPT THROUGH LEGISLATION DULY ENACTED, NEITHER THE COUNTY COUNCIL NOR ANY
17 MEMBER THEREOF OR THEIR STAFF MAY, EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, GIVE ORDERS TO
18 ANY MEMBER, OR ASSIGNED EMPLOYEE OF A BOARD OR COMMISSION LISTED IN SUBSECTION
19 ~~(D)~~ (C) OF THIS SECTION, NOR MAY THEY IN ANY MANNER ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE A MEMBER
20 OR ASSIGNED EMPLOYEE BY COMMUNICATING WITH THEM OFF THE RECORD AND OUT OF THE
21 PRESENCE OF THE PARTIES OF A PROCEEDING, OR COERCE ANY SUCH MEMBER OR EMPLOYEE IN
22 THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES.

23 (C) *THIS SECTION SHALL APPLY TO THE FOLLOWING BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: THE BOARD OF*
24 *APPEALS, THE HEARING EXAMINER, THE PERSONNEL BOARD, THE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES*
25 *HEARING BOARD, THE PLANNING BOARD, THE DESIGN ADVISORY PANEL, THE HISTORIC*
26 *PRESERVATION COMMISSION, THE ADVISORY BOARD ON CONSUMER PROTECTION, THE*
27 *CITIZENS' ELECTION FUND COMMISSION, THE ANIMAL MATTERS HEARING BOARD, THE*
28 *ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGING COMMITTEE, TRIAL BOARD(S), THE INSPECTOR GENERAL*
29 *ADVISORY BOARD, THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, AND THE ETHICS COMMISSION.*

1 (D) COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND STAFF. THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION SHALL ALSO APPLY TO THE
2 COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S STAFF.

3 ***Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted*** by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland that this Act
4 shall become effective 61 days after its enactment.

5

Amendment 1 to Council Bill No. 7 - 2026

BY: Opel Jones

Legislative Day 1
Date: January 05, 2026

Amendment No. 1

(This Amendment strikes references to subsection "(D)" and substitutes references to subsection "(C)".)

- 1 On page 1, in line 15, strike "(D)" and substitute with "(C)".
- 2
- 3 On page 1, in line 19, strike "(D)" and substitute with "(C)".

I certify that this a true copy of

Am 1 to C B7-2026
passed on Feb 2, 2026
Musilieh Oberryd
Council Administrator

Amendment 2 to Council Bill No. 7 - 2026

BY: Opel Jones
Christiana Rigby
David Yungmann

Legislative Day 2
Date: February 2, 2026

Amendment No. 2

(This Amendment expands the applicability of the bill by adding certain County Boards and Commissions)

- 1 On page 1, in line 27, after "CITIZENS' ELECTION FUND COMMISSION," insert the following:
- 2 "THE ANIMAL MATTERS HEARING BOARD, THE ADMINISTRATIVE CHARGING COMMITTEE, TRIAL BOARD(S), THE INSPECTOR GENERAL ADVISORY BOARD, THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION,".
- 3
- 4
- 5

I certify that this a true copy of
Am 2 to CB7-2026
passed on Feb 2, 2026
Michelle Dierckx
Council Administrator

Amendment 3 to Council Bill No. 7 - 2026

BY: Deb Jung

Legislative Day 2
Date: February 2, 2026

Amendment No. 3

(This Amendment includes the County Executive and County Executive's staff in the prohibition against interfering with County boards and commissions)

- 1 Strike beginning with "and" in line 1 of the Title through "staff" on line 2 of the Title and
- 2 substitute the following::
- 3 "County Council staff, the County Executive, and the County Executive's staff"
- 4
- 5 On page 1, in line 28 insert the following:
- 6 "(D) COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND STAFF. THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION SHALL ALSO APPLY TO THE
- 7 COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S STAFF.".

I certify that this a true copy of
Am 3 to CB7-2026
passed on Feb 2, 2026
Michelle Berry
Council Administrator

Amendment 4 to Council Bill No. 7 - 2026

BY: Deb Jung

Legislative Day 2
Date: February 2, 2026

Amendment No. 4

(This Amendment provides exceptions to the bill)

- 1 On page 1, in line 28 insert the following:
- 2 "(D) EXCEPTIONS. THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE SHALL NOT APPLY TO A COUNCILMEMBER OR
- 3 A MEMBER OF THEIR STAFF:
 - 4 (1) CONDUCTING THE DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS OF A COUNCILMEMBER OR A COUNCIL
 - 5 DISTRICT OFFICE. SUCH DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS SHALL INCLUDE THE COUNCIL'S
 - 6 AUTHORITY PROVIDED IN SECTIONS 205, 206, AND 207 OF THE HOWARD COUNTY CHARTER
 - 7 AND ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS CODE THAT PROVIDES THE COUNCIL WITH AUTHORITY;
 - 8 (2) CONDUCTING LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH;
 - 9 (3) PERFORMING USUAL AND CUSTOMARY CONSTITUENT SERVICES;
 - 10 (4) COMMUNICATING WITH THE PUBLIC REGARDING THE WORK OF A HOWARD COUNTY
 - 11 BOARD OR COMMISSION;
 - 12 (5) COMMUNICATING WITH THE PUBLIC REGARDING THE DECISIONS AND CONDUCT OF
 - 13 MEMBERS OF A BOARD OR COMMISSION;
 - 14 (6) APPEARING AT A PUBLIC HEARING;
 - 15 (7) APPEARING AT PUBLIC GATHERINGS;
 - 16 (8) TESTIFYING AT PUBLIC HEARINGS;
 - 17 (9) SPEAKING AT PUBLIC GATHERINGS;
 - 18 (10) RECEIVING PUBLIC TESTIMONY; AND
 - 19 (11) RESPONDING TO TESTIMONY PROVIDED AT A PUBLIC HEARING.

I certify that this a true copy of
Am 4 to CB7-2026
passed on Feb 2, 2026
FAILED Michele Hansen
Council Administrator

1 (E) NOTHING IN THIS SUBTITLE PREVENTS A COUNCILMEMBER OR A MEMBER OF THEIR STAFF FROM
2 EXERCISING THEIR RIGHTS UNDER THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED
3 STATES OF AMERICA OR THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND.”.

4

Introduced _____
Public Hearing _____
Council Action _____
Executive Action _____
Effective Date _____

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Introduced and read first time _____, 2026. Ordered posted and hearing scheduled.

By order _____
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Having been posted and notice of time & place of hearing & title of Bill having been published according to Charter, the Bill was read for a second time at a public hearing on _____, 2026.

By order _____
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

This Bill was read the third time on _____, 2026 and Passed _____, Passed with amendments _____, Failed _____.

By order _____
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this _____ day of _____, 2026 at ___ a.m./p.m.

By order _____
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Approved by the County Executive _____, 2026

Calvin Ball, County Executive

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; Strike-out indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

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15 OR COMMISSION PROVIDED FOR IN SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION.

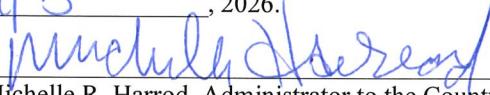
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21 PRESENCE OF THE PARTIES OF A PROCEEDING, OR COERCE ANY SUCH MEMBER OR EMPLOYEE IN
22 THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES.

23 (C) *THIS SECTION SHALL APPLY TO THE FOLLOWING BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: THE BOARD OF
24 APPEALS, THE HEARING EXAMINER, THE PERSONNEL BOARD, THE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
25 HEARING BOARD, THE PLANNING BOARD, THE DESIGN ADVISORY PANEL, THE HISTORIC
26 PRESERVATION COMMISSION, THE ADVISORY BOARD ON CONSUMER PROTECTION, THE
27 CITIZENS' ELECTION FUND COMMISSION, AND THE ETHICS COMMISSION.*

28
29 **Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted** by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland that this Act
30 shall become effective 61 days after its enactment.

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been approved by the Executive and returned to the Council, stands enacted on
February 5, 2026.



Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been passed by the yeas and nays of two-thirds of the members of the Council notwithstanding the objections of the Executive, stands enacted on _____, 2026.

Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having received neither the approval nor the disapproval of the Executive within ten days of its presentation, stands enacted on _____, 2026.

Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, not having been considered on final reading within the time required by Charter, stands failed for want of consideration on _____, 2026.

Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been disapproved by the Executive and having failed on passage upon consideration by the Council stands failed on _____, 2026.

Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, the withdrawal of which received a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Council, is withdrawn from further consideration on _____, 2026.

Michelle R. Harrod, Administrator to the County Council