

Introduced October 7, 2019
Public Hearing October 21, 2019
Council Action November 4, 2019
Executive Action November 6, 2019
Effective Date January 20, 2020

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2019 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 12

Bill No. 53 -2019

Introduced by: The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

AN ACT to amending the membership and responsibilities of the Board to Promote Self-Sufficiency; and generally relating to the Board to Promote Self-Sufficiency.

Introduced and read first time October 7, 2019. Ordered posted and hearing scheduled

By order

Diane A. Jones
Diane Schwartz Jones, 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 October 21, 2019.

By order

Diane A. Jones
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator

This Bill was read the third time on November 4 2019 and Passed Passed with amendments _____, Failed _____.

By order

Diane A. Jones
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this 5th day of November 2019 at 2 a.m./p.m.

By order

Diane A. Jones
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator

Approved/Vetoed by the County Executive November 6 2019

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

3 1. *By amending*

4 Title 12 "Health and Social Services"

5 Section 12.1700 "General provisions; purpose"

7 2. *By amending*

8 Title 12 "Health and Social Services"

9 Section 12.1701 "Membership"

11 3. *By amending*

12 Title 12 "Health and Social Services"

13 Section 12.1703 "Responsibilities of the Board"

15 **Title 12. Health and Social Services.**

16 **Subtitle 17. Board to Promote Self-Sufficiency.**

18 **Section 12.1700. General provisions; purpose.**

19 (a) *General Provisions.* General provisions applicable to this Board are set forth in subtitle 3,
20 "Boards and Commissions," of title 6, "County Executive and the Executive Branch" of this Code.

21 (b) *Purpose of the Board.* The purpose of the Board is to:

22 (1) Support [[the goal of the Human Services Master Plan]]EFFORTS to build a community that
23 enables individuals and families to have adequate income and resources to meet their basic
24 needs;

25 (2) Act as the planning and coordinating mechanism for initiatives to:

26 (i) Promote the economic stability of individuals and families; and

27 (ii) Reduce the incidence of poverty in Howard County; and

28 (3) Serve as the governance body for the distribution of certain resources that support
29 initiatives of the Board.

1 **Section 12.1701. Membership.**

2 (a) *Number of Members.* The Board shall have a minimum of 20 members and a maximum of 27
3 members.

4 (b) *Apportionment of Representation.* As practicable, the Board shall consist of a majority private
5 sector representation and a minority public sector representation.

6 (c) *Method of Appointment.* Each appointed member shall be appointed by the County Executive
7 and confirmed by the County Council.

8 (d) *Qualifications of Members:*

9 (1) All members shall either reside or work in Howard County.

10 (2) As practicable, the Board shall reflect the gender, geographic, ethnic, and racial makeup of
11 the County.

12 (3) Ex-officio members from the public sector shall include the following:

13 (i) The Director of the Department of Social Services, or the Director's designee;

14 (ii) The Director of the Department of Community Resources and Services, or the
15 Director's designee;

16 (iii) The Director of the Howard County Health Department, or the Director's designee;

17 (iv) The Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development or the
18 Director's designee;

19 (v) The Director of the Department of Corrections, or the Director's designee;

20 (vi) The Administrator of the Office of Workforce Development, or the Administrator's
21 designee;

22 (vii) The President of Howard Community College, or the President's designee;

23 (viii) The Superintendent of the Howard County Public School System, or the
24 Superintendent's designee; and

25 (ix) The Chairperson of the Howard County Housing Commission or the Chairperson's
26 Designee.

27 (4) Ex-officio members from the public sector may include:

28 (i) The Chief of the Department of Police, or the Chief's designee; and

29 (ii) The Director of the Department of Planning and Zoning, or the Director's designee.

30 (5) Appointed members from the private sector shall include:

- 1 (i) A representative from the Community Action Council or any other Federally
2 designated anti-poverty agency;
- 3 (ii) A representative from grassroots or any other homeless shelter serving both individuals
4 and families;
- 5 (iii) A representative from [[congregations concerned for the homeless]] BRIDGES TO
6 HOUSING STABILITY or any other provider of family stabilization services;
- 7 (iv) A representative from the Association of Community Services or any other network of
8 human services providers and advocates focused on serving families in Howard
9 County;
- 10 (v) At least one individual who [[is, or was, homeless or a recipient of emergency,
11 transitional, or subsidized housing services]] HAS USED THE SERVICES OF EMERGENCY,
12 TRANSITIONAL, OR SUBSIDIZED HOUSING;
- 13 (vi) At least one individual who [[is, or was, a recipient of cash benefits or services, or
14 both, to support their transition from welfare to work]] HAS RECEIVED CASH BENEFITS,
15 SERVICES, OR BOTH, TO SUPPORT THEIR TRANSITION TO STABLE EMPLOYMENT;
- 16 (vii) A representative of a HOWARD COUNTY business that provides entry and midlevel
17 employment opportunities;
- 18 (viii) A representative of the Howard County Chamber of Commerce or any other
19 organization whose purpose is to facilitate the success of businesses;
- 20 (ix) A representative of a faith-based organization;
- 21 (x) An individual or representative of a business that provides financial services; and
- 22 (xi) A representative of an organization that provides, or advocates for, transportation
23 services.
- 24 (6) Appointed members from the private sector may include other community members or
25 representatives from nonprofit organizations, for-profit organizations, or faith-based
26 organizations that:
- 27 (i) Provide crisis intervention services;
- 28 (ii) Support the financial stability of individuals and families;
- 29 (iii) Advocate for the basic needs of County residents; or
- 30 (iv) Represent the needs of children and families, seniors, or people with mental or
31 physical disabilities.

1
2 **Section 12.1703. Responsibilities of the Board.**

3 The Board shall:

- 4 (a) Review data and analyze the nature and characteristics of poverty within Howard County,
5 barriers to, and gaps in, existing services, and best practices from other jurisdictions;
6 [[(b) Participate in the development of a collaborative, multidisciplinary plan for an integrated
7 strategy that emphasizes prevention and early intervention;]]
8 ([[c]]B) Encourage and promote services and partnerships which support the [[implementation
9 of the plan]]HUMAN SERVICES MASTER PLAN, maximize the efficient use of available
10 resources, and generate additional resources;
11 ([[d]]C) Support the development of an integrated approach to data collection and information
12 management;
13 ([[e]]D) Evaluate the impact, effectiveness, and cost benefit of self-sufficiency initiatives;
14 ([[f]]E) If requested by a County agency, make recommendations to a County agency on the
15 use and distribution of Federal, State, or local funds for crisis intervention, financial
16 literacy, crisis prevention, and self-sufficiency activities [[including, but not limited to,
17 funds received under the Stewart B. McKinney-Vento Homelessness Assistance Act]];
18 ([[g]]F) Act as a County advocate for issues related to poverty, financial literacy and self-
19 sufficiency, and undertake activities which will educate and increase public awareness of
20 these issues;
21 ([[h]]G) Subject to section 22.1000 of the County Code, by December 1 of each year, submit
22 a report to the County Executive and County Council describing achievements for the
23 previous fiscal year, and providing recommendations regarding policies, legislation, and
24 funding strategies deemed necessary to accomplish the responsibilities and duties
25 established by this section; and
26 ([[i]]H) At the directive of the County Executive, or by resolution of the County Council,
27 review and make recommendations on any matter related to issues of poverty or economic
28 self-sufficiency in Howard County.

29
30 **Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted** by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland that
31 *this Act 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

November 6, 2019.

Diane Schwartz Jones
Diane Schwartz Jones, 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 _____, 2019.

Diane Schwartz Jones, 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 _____, 2019.

Diane Schwartz Jones, 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 _____, 2019.

Diane Schwartz Jones, 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 _____, 2019.

Diane Schwartz Jones, 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 _____, 2019.

Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator to the County Council



HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY RESOURCES AND SERVICES
9830 Patuxent Woods Drive ■ Columbia, Maryland 21046 ■ 410-313-6400 voice/relay

Jacqueline R. Scott, Director
communityresources@howardcountymd.gov

FAX 410-313-6424

October 15, 2019

Howard County Council
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Dear Council Members:

On behalf of the Department of Community Resources and Services (DCRS), I am pleased to submit testimony regarding CB53-2019 *An ACT Amending the Membership and Responsibilities of the Board to Promote Self-Sufficiency (BPSS)*.

The BPSS was created in 2009 with the mission of reducing the incidence of poverty in Howard County by acting as a planning and coordinating body for initiatives that promote the economic stability of individuals and families. The Board does its work by reviewing, coordinating and aligning efforts across sectors to improve the quality of life for all Howard County Residents.

The proposed changes in CB53-2019 do not change the substantive purpose, mission or work of the BPSS. The Board remains an important and vital voice for our community, and valued advisors to the County Executive. The Board has been actively involved over the past 2 years in a planning process that included re-envisioning their work and strategic planning. They were actively involved and consulted in the changes that are being proposed before you today. The changes received a full vote of approval prior to submitting CB53-2019 for your consideration.

The proposed changes before you include:

- a) Language that expands the definitions of eligible members: ex. Individuals who have used services of emergency, transitional or subsidized housing; along with updating language/terms of art like moving away from "welfare to work" to phrases like "stable employment";
- b) Removing from BPSS the sole responsibility for the Human Services Master Plan while maintaining a meaningful role in its development, and allocation of resources to support it; and
- c) Removing the responsibility for overseeing the Stewart B. McKinney-Vento Homelessness Assistance Act Funds. These funds remain the responsibility of DCRS as the Lead Agency for HUD funds and are now administered under the advice and guidance of the Howard County Coalition to End Homelessness and its Board, both established in 2017.

These proposed changes are made in recognition of the need to better align the work of the Board with the growth in infrastructure and capacity of both DCRS and the community as a whole. It is our hope that the evolution of the Boards work will place them in a stronger position to speak directly to the desires of the community to develop programs, policies, resources and funding streams to support a pathway for self-sufficiency for county residents.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline R. Scott, JD, M.L.
Director

The Department of Community Resources and Services provides vital human services through its offices of ADA Coordination, Aging and Independence, Children and Families, Community Partnerships, Consumer Protection, Human Trafficking Prevention, Local Children's Board, and Veterans and Military Families.

Sayers, Margery

From: Joan Driessen <joan.driessen@acshoco.org>
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2019 2:37 PM
To: CouncilMail
Subject: ACS written testimony in support of CB53-2019
Attachments: Testimony in support of CB53-2019.docx

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Dear Ms. Jones,

As I am unable to attend tonight's public hearing, I am sending my testimony in support of CB52-2019.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like any further information. Thank you.

Best,

Joan

Joan Driessen
Executive Director
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Howard County Council Public Hearing, Bill 53-2019
October 21, 2019

Testimony

As a member of the Board to Promote Self-Sufficiency for over 7 years, I am testifying in support of the changes to the membership and responsibilities of the board provided in Bill 53-2019.

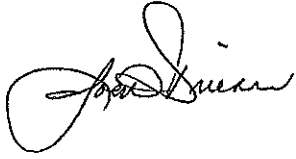
While originally charged with the development and oversight of the Plan to End Homelessness and subsequently the Coordinated System of Homeless Services, the BPSS has expanded its scope. The members of this multi-disciplinary board have extended its goals to include the collaborative development, implementation and evaluation of a broad range of services and programs designed to assist our most economically vulnerable residents in developing the resources necessary to meet their basic needs. Given the broad range of resources and services this requires, the BPSS is ideally positioned to convene the necessary organizations and to promote the development of the partnerships that can most effectively and efficiently respond to them. The changes to BPSS will allow it to be proactive in addressing needs upstream, before residents confront homelessness, and the domino effect that often follows.

BPSS has a history of proactive programming, The Getting Ahead program that helps residents to identify the resources needed to move out of poverty, a plan for moving ahead, and the community connections necessary to assist them was an initiative of the Board. BPSS Members worked to tailor this program to Howard County, pilot it in multiple agencies, and evaluate its effectiveness. Likewise, the VITA site program that provides free tax preparation for low-income residents, and the ever-expanding collaborations at the Multi-Service Center and NonProfit Collaborative are all outgrowths of the Board to Promote Self-Sufficiency.

Bringing together leaders with a common long-term goal but who address different aspects of it, continues to provide a unique opportunity to create programming that best meets the needs of economically vulnerable residents of Howard County. I encourage you to support the changes to the membership and responsibilities of the Board to Promote Self-Sufficiency.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony. I am always happy to address any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joan Driessen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "D".

Joan Driessen
Executive Director