

**Office of the County Auditor**  
**Analysis of Draft Legislation**

**Council Resolution No. 109-2020**

Introduced: July 6, 2020

Auditor: Maya Cameron

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Fiscal Impact:

The fiscal impact to the County as a result of this legislation cannot be determined.

*According to the Department of Public Works (DPW), no appraisal was performed on the property known as Grace Pond.* Additionally, there is no State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) record or Tax ID for this property.

The deed for Grace Pond was conveyed on July 27, 2016, from the State Highway Administration to Howard County with the consideration of \$1.00.

Per the DPW, the County has not performed any maintenance on this pond. Therefore, transferring the pond back to the State would not result in any cost savings to the County.

Purpose:

The purpose of this legislation is to:

- 1) Declare that the County-owned property described as “Grace Pond,” containing 2.447 acres, is no longer needed by the County for public purposes;
- 2) Authorize the County Executive to convey - at no cost - fee simple title to the property to the State of Maryland, waiving the advertising and bidding requirements of Section 4.201 of the Howard County Code; and
- 3) Provide that the County Executive is not bound to convey the property if he finds that the County may have a public use for it.

Other Comments:

According to the Administration, the pond is not currently being counted towards the County’s MS4 permit. Therefore, no County credits will be lost.

The DPW has indicated that the property is used as storm drainage. It would be both owned and operated by the State should this proposed legislation pass.

This property is part of a road right of way for Maryland Route 32 and Cedar Lane. The property is zoned as a Residential Environmental District.