

Introduced October 5, 2020  
Public Hearing October 19, 2020  
Council Action November 2, 2020  
Executive Action November 4, 2020  
Effective Date January 5, 2021

## County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2020 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 14

### Bill No. 55 -2020

Introduced by: Deb Jung  
Co-sponsored by: Liz Walsh and David Yungmann

AN ACT requiring the County Executive to submit fiscal analyses for specified legislative items; specifying when a fiscal analysis must be submitted; and generally relating to the enactment of legislation.

Introduced and read first time October 5, 2020. Ordered posted and hearing scheduled.

By order

Diane Schwartz 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 19, 2020.

By order

Diane Schwartz Jones  
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator

This Bill was read the third time on November 2, 2020 and Passed , Passed with amendments \_\_\_\_\_, Failed \_\_\_\_\_.

By order

Diane Schwartz Jones  
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this 3d day of November, 2020 at 11:30 a.m./p.m.

By order

Diane Schwartz Jones  
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator

Approved/Vetoed by the County Executive November 4, 2020

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 County**  
2 **Code is hereby amended as follows:**

3 *By amending:*

4 *Title 5 – County Council.*

5 *Subtitle 4. Miscellaneous.*

6 *Sec. 5.400. Fiscal analyses.*

7

8

9

**HOWARD COUNTY CODE**

10

**Title 5 – County Council.**

11

**Subtitle 4. Miscellaneous.**

12

Sec. 5.400. - Fiscal analyses.

13 (a) *Scope of Section.* This section applies to each bill, supplemental appropriation ordinance,  
14 transfer of appropriation ordinance, an act with a fiscal impact on County finances, and a  
15 resolution with a fiscal impact on County finances.

16 (b) *Fiscal analysis.* For purposes of this section, a fiscal analysis shall include:

17 (1) A summary of a bill or other legislation;

18 (2) An evaluation of the fiscal impact that a bill or other legislation would have on County  
19 government operations, revenues, and spending; and

20 (3) An explanation of how the bill or other legislation will be implemented.

21 (c) *In General.*

22 (1) (I) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE COUNTY  
23 EXECUTIVE SHALL SUBMIT A FISCAL ANALYSIS CONCURRENTLY WITH EACH BILL OR  
24 OTHER LEGISLATION THAT THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE REQUESTS TO BE INTRODUCED BY  
25 THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

26 (II) Except as provided in [[subparagraph (ii) of this]] paragraph (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION,  
27 the County Auditor must submit a fiscal analysis to the County Council of each bill  
28 or other legislation under consideration by the Council.

1           [[*(ii)* This subsection does not apply to the annual budget and appropriation ordinance  
2           of Howard County.]]

3           (2) A separate fiscal analysis is required for each bill or other legislation.

4           (3) THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO:

5           (I) THE ANNUAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE OF HOWARD COUNTY; OR

6           (II) A RESOLUTION THAT APPOINTS AN INDIVIDUAL TO A BOARD, COMMISSION, TASK FORCE,  
7           OR SIMILAR BODY.

8           (d) *Time for Submission BY AUDITOR.*

9           (1) A fiscal analysis COMPLETED BY THE COUNTY AUDITOR must be submitted to the County  
10           Council on or before 5:00 p.m. on the Thursday before the public hearing for the  
11           legislation, or the day the Council Chairperson sets to accommodate a holiday or other  
12           change in the normal schedule.

13           (2) If the County Auditor cannot submit the fiscal analysis within the time required by  
14           paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Auditor must notify the Council Chairperson in  
15           writing of the delay, the reason for the delay, and the revised delivery date. If the Council  
16           Chairperson finds that the revised delivery date is unreasonable, the Chairperson may set  
17           a different delivery deadline.

18           (e) *Content of Fiscal Analysis.* Each fiscal analysis must include the sources of information,  
19           assumptions, and methodologies used, a description of the variables that could affect fiscal  
20           estimates, and, if legislation is likely to have no fiscal impact, the reason for that conclusion.

21           (f) *Publication.*

22           (1) At least one business day before the public hearing for the legislation, the County  
23           Council shall make each fiscal analysis freely available to the public.

24           (2) The County Council shall archive fiscal analyses in a way that allows easy access to the  
25           public.

26           (g) *Compliance.* Council action on legislation that is otherwise valid is not invalid because of  
27           any failure to follow the requirements of this section.

1

2 ***Section 2. Be it further enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that this Act shall***  
3 ***become effective 61 days after its enactment.***

4

BY THE COUNCIL

This Bill, having been approved by the Executive and returned to the Council, stands enacted on November 4, 2020.

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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator to the County Council

**Amendment 1 to Council Bill No. 55-2020**

**BY: Christiana Rigby  
and Opel Jones**

**Legislative Day No. 15**

**Date: November 2, 2020**

**Amendment No. 1**

*(This Amendment provides that the County Executive must submit fiscal analyses subject to the same deadline as the County Auditor.)*

- 1 On page 1, in line 23, strike "CONCURRENTLY".
- 2 On page 2:
  - 3 • in line 8, strike "*BY AUDITOR*".
  - 4 • In line 9, strike "COMPLETED BY THE COUNTY AUDITOR".
  - 5 • In line 13, after "Auditor", insert "OR COUNTY EXECUTIVE".
  - 6 • In line 14, after "Auditor", insert "OR COUNTY EXECUTIVE".
  - 7



**HCCA****Howard County Citizens Association***Since 1961...**The Voice Of The People of Howard County*

Date: 19 October 2020

Subject: CB55-2020 -Requiring the County Executive to Submit Fiscal Analyses

The Howard County Citizens Association, HCCA would like to thank Councilmember Deb Jung for introducing this piece of legislation, which would require the County Executive to submit fiscal analyses with certain pieces of legislation.

The HCCA also thanks Councilmembers Walsh and Yungmann for co-sponsoring this legislation.

Just a few weeks ago, the County Council voted on several resolutions for charter amendment which had they passed would improve the legislative body's oversight ability.

CR97 which was sponsored by Councilmember Jung would have required the County Auditor to accompany the County Executive and Council Chairs on all discussions with officials of credit rating agencies. CR98 which was sponsored by Councilmember Yungmann would have made certain appointments by the County Executive subject to confirmation. CR101 was sponsored by Councilmember Jung would have allowed the County Council to have some control over the County's capital projects and departments. CR102, which was sponsored by Councilmember Yungmann, would have added to the County Charter a requirement for fiscal analysis.

All of these Resolutions would have helped the County Council, as a co-equal branch of County government, assert oversight over some of the County's critical activities. Unfortunately, all failed because Councilmembers Jones and Rigby declined to acknowledge the branch of government they represent, effectively ceding this authority to the executive branch.

We believe the approval of this Bill will incrementally improve the legislative body's oversight ability. The HCCA as a watchdog organization was disappointed that the Resolutions as mentioned failed and is very gratified that this legislation has three votes to pass. We only hope CB55 receives a unanimous vote to ensure a veto-proof majority.

We urge passage of this legislation to gain transparency for all.

Hiruy Hadgu  
HCCA Board of Directors



Veronica Wright  
vmedwright@yahoo.com

## Council Bill No. 55-2020

### Medicare for All on a Local Level

I support CB55-2020. This act will require the County Executive to submit fiscal analyses for specified legislative items; specifying when a fiscal analysis must be submitted; and generally relating to the enactment of legislation.

I am a change advocate who supports single-payer healthcare. I want to form a working group of healthcare executives from private healthcare companies and hospitals, doctors, patient advocates, business leaders, government officials, public policy analysts, and change advocates like myself. The idea is to get single-payer healthcare for Baltimore City, Montgomery, and Howard County. I have reached out to the RAND corporation to see if they could analyze how much more in raised taxes it would cost to have single-payer healthcare in the above-mentioned localities. They seemed open to the idea. My idea would still include private health insurance as I suspect, the local government would probably outsource the work of healthcare management. Additionally, I do not want to eliminate Tricare, Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, or any federally funded program. Nor am I looking for federal subsidies. This should minimize some of the barriers associated with federal laws and waivers. We would still need permission from the state.

I am requesting for Howard County Council to be a part of this working group or to refer me to anyone who may be interested in joining this effort. My goal is to build a strong working group/coalition of interested parties.

A requirement to mandate the County Executive to submit fiscal analyses for specified legislative item will complement my efforts to form a working group on the issue of single payer healthcare. A fiscal analysis of the proposed working group will weigh the pros and cons of studying Medicare for All more in depth and may provide a pathway for implementing it on a local level. Additionally, my reasons for supporting CB-55 2020 can be summarized into one sentence: **We need to build our communities.**

Today more than 30 million American do not have health insurance and many more are underinsured. Having insurance is not a total safety net from unexpectant medical bills. For many individuals their medical bills cause bankruptcy. Single-payer healthcare will eliminate this problem. Furthermore, families that do not receive healthcare become broken often resulting in not being able to contribute to the workforce. Broken families in turn become broken communities. This is not what we want for Howard County and its surrounding municipalities. I believe a fiscal analysis of this proposed study will help to demonstrate to the public the need to build communities by ensuring that everyone has access to healthcare.

Providing Medicare for All will allow for drug treatment. According to Family Advocates Coalition to End Addiction in Maryland (F.A.C.E), more than 40,000 arrests for non-

Veronica Wright  
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violent drug crimes took place in Maryland in 2014, and 81% of drug arrests were for possession only. Furthermore, Maryland has approximately 4,000 prisoners incarcerated for drug crimes at any point in time, costing the corrections system \$260 million. If we provide drug treatment, less people will be going to jail and less money will be spent on building penitentiaries. We can build community by providing drug treatment and harm reduction measures that will enable people to be productive members of society. Medicare for All provides presents the opportunity to provide treatment will help those who may have been surrounded by negative influencers during their developmental years. These individuals will be role models for the sons and daughters they raise to build not just our local community but for a nation.

Again, I request support for a working group to study Medicare for All on a local level. CB-55 2020 complements these efforts. Please contact me for more information.

Very Respectfully,

Veronica Wright

# The People's Voice

October 18, 2020

CB55-2020

Support of CB 55 –

The People's Voice supports all efforts to note the fiscal impacts to the County of proposed legislation from any source. This is needed for transparency, and more complete understanding of effects of votes for the Council Members.

Lisa Markovitz

President

The People's Voice is a civic/political organization with over 4000 members in Howard County and over 500 in Montgomery County.



**HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL  
AFFIDAVIT OF AUTHORIZATION  
TO TESTIFY ON BEHALF OF AN ORGANIZATION**

I, Hiruy Hadgu, have been duly authorized by  
*(name of individual)*

Howard County Citizens Association to deliver testimony to the  
*(name of nonprofit organization or government board, commission, or task force)*

County Council regarding CB55-2020, CB56-2020, and TAO1-2021 to express the organization's  
*(bill or resolution number)*

CB55<sup>A</sup> CB56 TAO1  
support for / opposition to / request to amend this legislation.  
*(Please circle one.)*

Printed Name: Hiruy Hadgu

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 10/19/2020

Organization: Howard County Citizens Association

Organization Address: P.O. Box 89, Ellicott City, MD 21041

P.O. Box 89, Ellicott City, MD 21041

Number of Members: 500

Name of Chair/President: Stuart Kohn

*This form can be submitted electronically via email to  
[councilmail@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:councilmail@howardcountymd.gov) no later than 2 hours prior to the start of the  
Public Hearing.*