



Howard County

Internal Memorandum

Subject: Council Testimony and Fiscal Impact Statement
Re: Boards and Commissions

To: Lonnie R. Robbins
Chief Administrative Officer

From: John K. Peterson
Assistant Chief Administrative Officer

Date: August 23, 2021

The Administration supports and urges the passage of the Council Bill XX-2021 which would allow County Boards and Commissions the ability to continue to meet virtually or in a hybrid in-person/virtual mode after the pandemic emergency orders have been exhausted. Providing online participation at board and commission meetings provides greater transparency and accessibility for our residents and participants who may have challenges or barriers to attending an in-person only meeting.

We have contacted our boards and commissions and notified them of the potential code change which make it clear that they would be allowed to meet virtually or have a combination of in-person and virtual participation. The boards and commissions were asked to review their bylaws for any required changes in the event the board or commission would want to meet virtually but their bylaws require meeting in person.

There is no anticipated fiscal impact as a result of this legislation as our boards and commissions have already been set up to meet virtually and have the technology to continue to host virtual meetings.

cc: Jennifer Sager