

Office of the County Auditor
Auditor's Analysis

Council Bill No. 50-2022

Introduced: July 5, 2022

Auditor: Lori Buchman

Fiscal Impact:

There will be no fiscal impact as a result of this legislation.

The proposed training requirements of this legislation are both offered at no cost to participants and require no additional outlay of expenses from the County. The Director of the Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ) states there are training materials regarding the County's planning and land development processes available online. Also, at some point the DPZ will resume in-person PlanHoward Academy courses for the public, which will be available for members of the Howard County Board of Appeals.

Purpose:

The proposed legislation will require newly appointed members of the Board of Appeals to complete publicly offered planning courses designed by the DPZ and the Maryland Department of Planning. The courses shall be completed within six months of a board member's appointment.

Other Comments:

Due to the pandemic, the PlanHoward Academy has been put on hold. Previously, there were one or two sessions a year. The DPZ has advised that it intends to resume the program, but no time frame for such has been identified at this time.