

Introduced _____
Public Hearing _____
Council Action _____
Executive Action _____
Effective Date _____

County Council Of Howard County, Maryland

2014 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 4

Bill No. 13 - 2014

Introduced by:

Courtney Watson, Councilmember

Co-sponsored by:

Calvin Ball, Councilmember

Jennifer Terrasa, Councilmember

AN ACT requiring County Boards and Commissions and the Howard County Housing Commission to publicly post minutes and agendas of all open meetings; and generally relating to Boards and Commissions.

Introduced and read first time _____, 2014. Ordered posted and hearing scheduled.

By order _____
Sheila Tolliver, 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 _____, 2014.

By order _____
Sheila Tolliver, Administrator

This Bill was read the third time on _____, 2014 and Passed ____, Passed with amendments _____, Failed _____.

By order _____
Sheila Tolliver, Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this ___ day of _____, 2014 at ___ a.m./p.m.

By order _____
Sheila Tolliver, Administrator

Approved by the County Executive _____, 2014

Ken Ulman, County Executive

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN ALL 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
2 Howard County Code is amended as follows:

3

4 1. By amending:

5 *Title 6. County Executive and The Executive Branch*

6 *Subtitle 3. Boards and Commissions*

7 *Subsection 6.305. Meetings to be public.*

8

9 2. By amending:

10 *Title 13. Housing and Community Development*

11 *Subtitle 13. Howard County Housing Commission Articles of*
12 *Incorporation*

13 *Subsection 13.1308. Voting; meetings.*

14

15

16 **Title 6. County Executive and the Executive Branch**

17 **Subtitle 3. Boards and Commissions**

18

19 **Sec. 6.305. Meetings to be public.**

20

21 (a) *Open Meetings.* All meetings of Howard County Boards and
22 Commissions shall be public meetings and open to the public at all times,
23 except under circumstances in which a closed meeting is permitted by
24 law. AGENDAS SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE AT LEAST THREE DAYS PRIOR
25 TO THE MEETING IN AN ELECTRONIC MEDIUM READILY AVAILABLE TO THE
26 PUBLIC. MINUTES OF OPEN MEETINGS SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE AS SOON
27 AS PRACTICABLE IN AT LEAST ONE ELECTRONIC MEDIUM READILY
28 AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.

29

1 (b) *Prohibition for Meeting on Certain Days.* All Howard County Boards and
2 Commissions shall be prohibited from holding meetings which include an
3 opportunity for public testimony on any day on which Rosh Hashanah,
4 Yom Kippur, Eid Ul Fitr or Eid Ul Adha is observed.
5

6 **Title 13. Housing and Community Development**

7 **Subtitle 13. Howard County Housing Commission Articles of Incorporation**
8

9 **Sec. 13.1308. Voting; meetings.**

10 (a) *Quorum; Voting.* The powers of the Commission shall be vested in the
11 Commissioners in office from time to time. For the purpose of conducting
12 its business and exercising its powers and for all other purposes, four
13 Commissioners shall constitute a quorum of the Commission. Action may
14 be taken by the Commission upon vote of a majority of the
15 Commissioners present at a meeting at which there is a quorum, unless the
16 bylaws of the Commission require a larger number for a particular matter.
17

18 (b) *Open Meetings.* The Commission shall meet in open session as required by
19 the Open Meetings Law, section 10-501 et seq. of the State Government
20 Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as amended. AGENDAS
21 SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE AT LEAST ~~THREE~~-FIVE BUSINESS DAYS PRIOR TO
22 THE MEETING IN AN ELECTRONIC MEDIUM READILY AVAILABLE TO THE
23 PUBLIC. MINUTES OF OPEN MEETINGS SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE AS SOON
24 AS PRACTICABLE IN AT LEAST ONE ELECTRONIC MEDIUM READILY
25 AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.
26

27 **Section 2. *And Be It Further Enacted* by the County Council of Howard County,**
28 ***Maryland, that this Act shall become effective 61 days after its enactment.***