

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

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2026 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No.

Bill No. 7 -2026

Introduced by: Opel Jones

Co-Sponsored by: Christiana Rigby
David Yungmann

SHORT TITLE: Howard County Boards and Commissions - Interference – Prohibition

AN ACT prohibiting the County Council, individual Councilmembers, and County Council staff from hindering, obstructing, or disrupting the deliberations and decisions of certain County Board or Commission; and generally relating to Howard County Boards and Commissions.

Introduced and read first time _____, 2026. Ordered posted and hearing scheduled.

By order _____
Michelle Harrod, 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 _____, 2026.

By order _____
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

This Bill was read the third time on _____, 2026 and Passed ___, Passed with amendments ___, Failed _____.

By order _____
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Executive for approval this _____ day of _____, 2026 at ___ a.m./p.m.

By order _____
Michelle Harrod, Administrator

Approved by the County Executive _____, 2026

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.

Section 1. *Be It Enacted* by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that the Howard County Code is amended as follows:

By adding:

Title 5. "County Council"

Subtitle 6. "Noninterference with Boards and Commissions"

Section 5.600. "Noninterference with Boards and Commissions"

Title 5. County Council

Subtitle 6. Noninterference with Boards and Commissions

SEC. 5.600. NONINTERFERENCE WITH BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

- (A) NEITHER THE COUNTY COUNCIL NOR ANY OF ITS MEMBERS OR STAFF SHALL TAKE ANY ACTION TO HINDER, OBSTRUCT, OR DISRUPT THE DELIBERATIONS OR DECISIONS OF ANY BOARD OR COMMISSION PROVIDED FOR IN SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION.
- (B) EXCEPT THROUGH LEGISLATION DULY ENACTED, NEITHER THE COUNTY COUNCIL NOR ANY MEMBER THEREOF OR THEIR STAFF MAY, EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, GIVE ORDERS TO ANY MEMBER, OR ASSIGNED EMPLOYEE OF A BOARD OR COMMISSION LISTED IN SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION, NOR MAY THEY IN ANY MANNER ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE A MEMBER OR ASSIGNED EMPLOYEE BY COMMUNICATING WITH THEM OFF THE RECORD AND OUT OF THE PRESENCE OF THE PARTIES OF A PROCEEDING, OR COERCE ANY SUCH MEMBER OR EMPLOYEE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR DUTIES.
- (C) *THIS SECTION SHALL APPLY TO THE FOLLOWING BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:* THE BOARD OF APPEALS, THE HEARING EXAMINER, THE PERSONNEL BOARD, THE ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES HEARING BOARD, THE PLANNING BOARD, THE DESIGN ADVISORY PANEL, THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION, THE ADVISORY BOARD ON CONSUMER PROTECTION, THE CITIZENS' ELECTION FUND COMMISSION, AND THE ETHICS COMMISSION.

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