



Howard County

Internal Memorandum

Subject: Administrative testimony on Council Bill No. 51-2016

To: Lonnie R. Robbins
Chief Administrative Officer

From: Jennifer Sager
Legislative Coordinator

Date: July 13, 2016

There are many references in the County Code to actions being taken within a certain time period or within a certain number of days. These are actions taken by County residents and businesses such as filing certain appeals, applying for license exams, and paying certain fines. These references also apply to actions taking by the County, such as issuing decisions.

Council Bill No. 51-2016 has been proposed in order to clarify time periods stipulated in the County Code. The bill sets forth how to begin to compute a period of time. The day of the act or event is not included. The bill also sets forth how to compute the last day of period of time. If a designated time period ends on a weekend, holiday or any other day when county government does not operate for a full day, the deadline will automatically extend to the next full day. Having such a provision in our County Code is consistent with our neighboring jurisdictions and with the State of Maryland.

The bill provides significant benefit to residents by giving them clarity when things are due, such as when to file petitions, pay water and sewer bills, appeal zoning decisions, apply for licenses or pay fines for certain civil violations.

The bill will also clarify the deadlines for county government departments and agencies to complete work on a multitude of services including, without limitation, rendering decisions on zoning matters, issuing licenses and permits, publishing financial reports and disposing of unclaimed property.

There is no fiscal impact to this bill.