COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
Legislative Session 2025, Legislative Day No. 12

Bill No. 47-25

Councilmembers Marks, Kach & Patoka

By the County Council, July 7, 2025

A BILL
ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Landmarks Preservation Commission – Meetings and Hearings

FOR the purpose of requiring that all meetings and hearings of the Landmarks Preservation Commission be held in person except under certain circumstances; permitting a member of the Commission to participate virtually in a meeting or hearing; requiring that a member of the public wishing to testify at a Commission hearing register in advance; establishing that a member of the public may not be prohibited from testifying at a Commission hearing solely because they have previously submitted written testimony regarding the subject of the hearing or the matter on which they wish to testify; and generally relating to meetings and hearings of the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from bill.
Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

BY adding

Sections 3-3-1206
Article 3 – Administration
Title 3 – Boards, Commissions, Committees, Panels, and Foundations
Baltimore County Code, 2015

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the Laws of Baltimore County read as follows:

ARTICLE 3 – ADMINISTRATION

Title 3 – Boards, Commissions, Committees, Panels, and Foundations

Subtitle 12 – Landmarks Preservation Commission

§ 3-3-1206. MEETINGS AND HEARINGS.

(A) THE COMMISSION SHALL MEET AT THE CALL OF THE CHAIR AS FREQUENTLY AS IS REQUIRED TO PERFORM ITS DUTIES.

(B) THE COMMISSION MAY ADOPT A SET OF RULES CONSISTENT WITH THIS SUBTITLE TO GOVERN ITS OWN MEETINGS AND HEARINGS.

(C) (1) EXCEPT UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, ALL MEETINGS AND HEARINGS OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE HELD IN PERSON.

(2) AT THE CHAIR'S DISCRETION, ANY MEETING OR HEARING OF THE COMMISSION MAY BE CONDUCTED VIRTUALLY, IF A STATE OF EMERGENCY, A WEATHER EVENT, A POWER OUTAGE, OR OTHER OCCURRENCE WOULD PRESENT A DANGER TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDING IN

PERSON OR WOULD PREVENT THE NORMAL OPERATIONS OF THE MEETING OR HEARING.

(3) PUBLIC NOTICE SHALL BE GIVEN WITH AS MUCH ADVANCED NOTICE AS IS POSSIBLE FOR THE GIVEN CIRCUMSTANCE.

(D) (1) A COMMISSION MEMBER THAT CANNOT ATTEND A MEETING OR HEARING IN PERSON MAY PARTICIPATE AND VOTE VIRTUALLY.

(2) A COMMISSION MEMBER THAT WISHES TO PARTICIPATE VIRTUALLY SHOULD GIVE AS MUCH ADVANCED NOTICE AS POSSIBLE TO THE CHAIR AND COMMISSION STAFF.

(E) (1) A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC THAT WISHES TO TESTIFY AT A HEARING OF THE COMMISSION SHALL REGISTER IN ADVANCE IN THE METHOD ESTABLISHED BY THE CHAIR AND COMMISSION STAFF.

(2) A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC MAY NOT BE PROHIBITED FROM TESTIFYING AT A HEARING OF THE COMMISSION SOLELY BECAUSE THEY HAVE PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED WRITTEN TESTIMONY REGARDING THE SUBJECT OF THE HEARING OR THE MATTER ON WHICH THEY WISH TO TESTIFY.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that this Act, having been passed by the affirmative vote of five members of the County Council, shall take effect 14 days after its enactment.