



**ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY  
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY AUDITOR**

**To:** Councilmembers, Anne Arundel County Council  
**From:** Michelle Bohlayer, County Auditor  
**Date:** December 13, 2024  
**Subject:** Auditor's Review of Legislation for the December 16, 2024 Council Meeting

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**Bill 93-24: Planning and  
Development – Master  
Plan for Water Supply  
and Sewerage Systems**

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill amends the Anne Arundel County Master Plan for Water Supply and Sewerage Systems, 2022, as amended (Plan) to change section 4.7.9.5, Table 4-37, and Sewer Map S-4 to reflect construction of a new sewer pump station and force main which will result in flow being redirected from Piney Orchard Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) to the Patuxent WRF and the future decommissioning of the existing Piney Orchard WRF. This bill requires a certified copy of the Plan and associated map Amendments to be kept in specified files. This bill is contingent upon approval of the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and requires the Office of Planning and Zoning to notify the Administrative Officer to the County Council within five days after receiving any notice from MDE.

**Review of Fiscal Impact**

The Administration's fiscal note states that there is no fiscal impact associated with amending this plan but that implementation of the plan may result in long-term savings since the cost of converting the Piney Orchard WRF to a pump station is lower than upgrading the facility to enhanced nutrient removal (ENR) standards. Updating this master plan is required to allow the County to apply for bay restoration funds so that the new plan is eligible for state grant funding.

Certain estimates provided to convert the Piney Orchard WRF to a pump station indicate that the overall cost is lower than upgrading the facility to ENR standards; however, we were unable to confirm how this information reconciles to the currently approved budget for the Piney Orchard SPS and FM capital project (Project

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**Bill 93-24 (continued)**

#S807600) and what the future implications will be for this project's funding requirements.

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**Bill 94-24: Boards, Commissions, and Similar Bodies – Finance, Taxation, and Budget – Agriculture Commission**

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill codifies the Anne Arundel County Agriculture Commission (Commission) with the purpose of representing the interests of the County's agricultural industry and offering guidance and providing assistance to County officials, employees, agencies, boards, and commissions in matters concerning the agricultural industry in the County. This bill establishes the Commission's composition, which includes 13 voting members appointed by the County Executive and 12 non-voting members, and specifies the election of officers, the terms of voting members, meeting procedures, and duties. The Commission is required to submit a specified annual report to the County Executive and the County Council.

This bill also reorganizes Articles 3 and 4 of the County Code so boards and commissions are listed in alphabetical order and associated references are updated.

**Review of Fiscal Impact**

We agree with the Administration's fiscal note that this bill has no direct fiscal impact.

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**Bill 95-24: Public Ethics – Conflicts of Interest – County Council**

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill modifies the Public Ethics Article. The bill establishes a definition of "participation." This bill modifies provisions related to conflicts of interest for County Council members, including:

- specifying that certain employee organizations are within the definition of "close economic association;"
- providing those members of Councilmembers' immediate families in relationships that constitute a presumed conflict of interest;
- specifying the financial and business relationships that constitute a presumed conflict of interest for Councilmembers and their family members;
- providing that if a conflict is direct and personal to the employer of a Councilmember's immediate family, suspension of disqualification is prohibited; and

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**Bill 95-24 (continued)**

- allowing suspension of disqualification for any legislation in its entirety that includes more than one subject matter, only one of which presents a conflict of interest.

**Review of Fiscal Impact**

A fiscal note was not provided; therefore, we are unable to assess the impact.

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**Bill 96-24: Subdivision and Development – Site Development – Pre-Built Short-Term Buildings**

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill exempts a pre-built temporary structure suitable for use for less than 10 years for an office or meeting space and placed on a religious or educational facility property from site development requirements if it is no more than 1,200 square feet, is served by electricity but not plumbing or sewer, does not increase the impervious surface, and does not impact specified onsite parking requirements.

**Review of Fiscal Impact**

A fiscal note was not provided; therefore, we are unable to assess the impact.

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**Resolution 51-24: Approving the Private Disposition of Certain Improved, County-Owned Property Known as a Portion of Magothy Bridge Road, Adjacent to the Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company in Severna Park**

**Summary of Legislation**

This resolution approves the private disposition of a 0.828-acre surplus property from the County to the Earleigh Heights Volunteer Fire Company for zero dollars.

**Review of Fiscal Impact**

The Administration’s fiscal note stated that the appraised value of the property is \$57,960; however, we were unable to confirm the value of the property because the Administration did not provide the independent appraiser’s report. There is also a fiscal impact associated with a zero-dollar sale price because the County is disposing of the property with no proceeds in return.

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