

Prince George's County House Delegation

MINUTES – First Meeting

January 16, 2015

Delegation Room
House Office Building Room 150
Annapolis, MD

Delegates present:

1. Delegate Jay Walker, Delegation Chair
2. Delegate Angela Angel
3. Delegate Ben Barnes
4. Delegate Darryl Barnes
5. Delegate Ereik L. Barron
6. Delegate Will Campos
7. Delegate Diana Fennell
8. Delegate Barbara Frush
9. Delegate Tawanna P. Gaines
10. Delegate Anne Healey
11. Delegate Marvin E. Holmes Jr.
12. Delegate Carolyn J.B. Howard
13. Delegate Tony Knotts
14. Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnyk
15. Delegate Jimmy Tarlau
16. Delegate Geraldine Valentino-Smith
17. Delegate Kris Valderrama
18. Delegate Michael L. Vaughn
19. Delegate Alonzo T. Washington

Absent:

- Delegate Dereck E. Davis
- Delegate Michael A. Jackson (*Excused- attended So Maryland Delegation meeting*)
- Delegate James Proctor
- Delegate Joseph Vallario

Staff:

Daniel Valentine, Legislative Director
Jodie Chilson, Delegation Counsel

Meeting convened approximately 9:35 a.m.

Chairman Walker welcomed the group and led prayer, followed by

II. Introduction of New Members

Chairman Walker had each of the eight new delegates introduce themselves to the group and audience:

- Angela Angel

- Darryl Barnes
- Erek L. Barron
- Will Campos
- Diana Fennell
- Tony Knotts
- Jimmy Tarlau

Chair Walker noted that Delegate Michael A. Jackson was participating in the Southern Maryland delegation in another room.

III. Subcommittee Reports:

A. Bi-County

Delegate Michael L. Vaughn introduced himself as Chair and members of the committee, which will meet in the Delegation Room (new location) this session on Thursday mornings (new day) as needed

B. Law Enforcement

Delegate Alonzo T. Washington introduced himself as Chair and the members of the committee, which will meet on Wednesdays this session in the Delegation Room as needed

C. County Affairs

Delegate Carolyn J.B. Howard introduced herself as chair and the members of her committee, which will meet on Wednesdays (new day) in Room 302 (new location) as needed this session

Most groups will begin meeting on January 27th and 28th due to the inauguration activities next week.

IV. Adoption of Delegation Rules

Delegate Valentino-Smith made the motion to adopt the delegation Rules, seconded by Vaughn. The adoption was accepted by a unanimous voice vote.

(A copy of the adopted rules is attached at the bottom of the minutes)

V. Announcements

Delegation will likely meet next week Jan 23rd with Senator Ben Cardin as a guest speaker. Announcement will be sent.

Meeting concluded at approximately 9:49 a.m.

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PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY HOUSE DELEGATION RULES

(Drafted 2010, Re-adopted by Prince George's County House Delegation on January 16, 2015)

OFFICERS

1. Election, Terms, Duties, and Qualifications.

(a) There shall be a Chair, a First Vice Chair and a Second Vice Chair of the Prince George's County House Delegation, each of whom shall be elected by a constitutional majority for two year terms.

(b) The Chair shall prepare the agenda, establish meeting times, preside at all meetings of the Delegation, and perform administrative and ceremonial duties that pertain to the office of the Delegation Chair.

(c) The First Vice Chair shall act in the place of the Chair during the latter's absence. The Second Vice Chair shall act in the place of the First Vice Chair during the latter's absence.

(d) Recommendations for House Committee Assignments and Leadership Positions shall be made by the Chair and the two Vice Chairs to the Speaker.

(e) Any Member elected or appointed to the office of Speaker, Speaker Pro Tem, Majority Leader, or Chair or Vice Chair of a major House Committee shall not serve as Chair or Vice Chair of the Delegation or of a Delegation Standing Committee.

(f) (1) In a presidential election year, the Chair and Vice Chairs shall be elected at a time and place convenient to the members as determined by the then sitting Chair to be held not later than October 1 in the year in which the term of the Chair expires.

(2) In a gubernatorial election year, the Chair and Vice Chairs shall be elected after the general election in November but not later than December 1.

(g) In a year in which there is no election for members of the House, the vote shall be by the sitting members of the Delegation. In a year in which there is an election for the House of Delegates, the election shall be by the individuals selected in that election for seats in the House.

(h) Should a vacancy occur in the office of Chair, a new Chair shall be elected by the members of the Delegation within 30 days after the occurrence of the vacancy.

(i) All elections for the chair and vice-chairs shall be held in open session and may not be conducted with a secret ballot.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

2. Order of Business.

The general order of business shall be as follows:

- (a) Presentations by non legislators
- (b) Submission of local bills
- (c) Special orders and unfinished business
- (d) Reports of standing committees
- (e) Report of ad hoc committees
- (f) Other Business

RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF DELEGATES

3. Attendance.

Attendance and absence shall be duly recorded in the minutes. Delegates shall notify the Chair of anticipated absences.

4. Procedure in Debate.

Every Delegate desiring to be recognized for any reason shall address the Chair. The member shall not proceed further until recognized by the Chair. If two or more Delegates seek recognition at the same time, the Chair shall determine which is entitled to the floor.

5. Limit of Discussion.

No Delegate shall speak more than once upon any subject until every other Delegate wishing to speak shall have spoken. All Delegates shall confine themselves to the subject under discussion. Non-members shall not participate during debates unless authorized to do so by the Chair of the Delegation.

6. Yeas and Nays.

A roll call vote in the Delegation shall be taken on each bill and entered into the minutes of the Delegation meeting.

7. Explanation of Vote.

Delegates who cast a yea or nay vote on a matter and wish to explain their vote shall be limited to one minute for each of such explanation. A Delegate is permitted only one

explanation for any one question, and may not yield or transfer unused time to any other Delegate.

COMMITTEES

8. Appointment.

All Delegation Committees and any special committees shall be appointed by the Chair. The Chair shall designate a Chair and a Vice Chair for each standing committee. Appointments and designations shall be made after consultation with the two Vice Chairs.

9. Standing Committees.

(a) The following standing committees shall be appointed and any committee Chair may appoint a sub-committee.

(1) House Delegation Bi-County Commission, which includes Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), and utility and transportation issues affecting Prince George's County and at least one other county.

(2) House Delegation Committee on County Affairs

(3) House Delegation Committee on Law Enforcement and State Appointed Boards

(b) A Delegate shall not be appointed to more than one of the standing committees

10. Ad Hoc Committees.

The Chair shall establish from time to time such ad hoc committees as deemed necessary with the approval of the Delegation.

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSED LOCAL BILLS TO THE DELEGATION

11. Form of Submission; Deadlines; Late-Filed and Other Bills

(a) Every proposed local bill, bearing the name of the sponsoring Delegate(s) or the Delegation Chair on behalf of a requesting governmental agency, shall be submitted to the Delegation Chair.

(b) (i) In a year in which there is no election of the members to the House, to be considered timely, the sprint version of the text of any local bill or bi-county bill shall be submitted to the Delegation chair by November 4.

(ii) In a year in which there is an election of the members to the House, to be considered timely, the sprint version of the text of any local bill or bi-county bill shall be submitted to the Delegation chair by December 15.

(c) Procedures for late-filed bills, Senate bills, and non-local bills relating to Prince George's County are as follows:

1. Local bills: Any local bill that is submitted to the Delegation after the deadlines set forth in subsection (b) of this rule will require a two-thirds vote of the total membership of the Delegation to allow the introduction of the bill in the Delegation.

2. Bi-county bills: Any bi-county bill that applies to both Prince George's County and Montgomery County or only to Prince George's County that is submitted to the Prince George's County Delegation after the deadlines set forth in subsection (b) of this rule will require a two-thirds vote of the total membership of the Delegation to allow the introduction of the bill in the Delegation. If a bi-county bill submitted after November 4 only affects Montgomery County, it will automatically be introduced in the Prince George's County Delegation.

3. Prince George's County bills that originate in the Senate for which there are no House crossfiled bills shall follow whatever rules that are in effect for the Prince George's senators.

4. Should a standing committee of the House refer a bill or any other matter to the Delegation for recommendation, a letter of support, or other action, that bill or other matter may be considered by the Delegation without a hearing by a majority vote of the Delegation and may be referred to a committee of the Delegation.

(d) All proposed local legislation introduced into the House shall be under Delegation sponsorship.

12. Bill Numbers.

(a) Every bill shall be assigned a Prince George's County number.

(b) Bi-County bills shall be assigned a PG/MC or MC/PG number, depending on which Delegation acts first on the bills

13. Committee Referrals.

(a) As soon as possible after the receipt of a proposed bill by the Delegation Chair, it shall be referred to the appropriate standing committee of the Delegation.

(b) It shall be the duty of the standing committee to consider every proposed Bill referred to it and to report back to the Delegation in timely fashion.

(c) Bi-County bills effecting Montgomery County only shall not be acted upon until they have received action by the Montgomery County Delegation.

14. Notification of Procedures.

The Chair shall provide written notice to the members of the Delegation as to the procedures under rules 11, 12, and 13 of these Rules.

COMMITTEE WORK

15. Committee Hearings.

(a) Before any proposed local bill or bi-county bill may be given a favorable recommendation by the Delegation, a public hearing shall be held.

(b) Public hearings on proposed local bills shall be held in the county, unless, by a two-thirds vote of the total membership of the Delegation, the Delegation decides to allow the hearing to be held in Annapolis or to waive the hearing.

(c) It shall be the responsibility of the Chair of the Delegation to coordinate the hearing schedule and notify the public and the media of the hearings.

(d) Should a bill that has been submitted to a standing committee of the House be modified by an amendment or proposed amendment in a way that would make it a local bill, the bill may be considered by the Delegation without a hearing by a two-thirds vote of the Delegation.

(e) A local bill or bi-county bill that has passed the Senate may be considered by the Delegation without a hearing by a two-thirds vote of the Delegation.

16. Committee Meetings.

The Committee Chair shall notify the members of the Delegation of all scheduled committee meetings and hearings and also inform them of any public officials expected or invited to testify.

17. Bills Reported to Delegation.

(a) Every bill upon which a committee has taken final action shall be reported to the Delegation by the Chair of the committee or their designee.

(b) A favorable report shall require the yea votes of a constitutional majority of the committee.

(c) Bills may be reported without recommendation of the committee.

(d) If a bill fails to receive a constitutional majority of the committee after [2] 3 votes, the bill shall be reported to the Delegation with an unfavorable recommendation.

(e) All bills shall be reported to the Delegation.

18. Amendments.

(a) When a proposed local bill or bi-county bill is reported favorable from committee with amendments, the amendments as proposed shall be typewritten or otherwise duplicated and attached thereto.

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(b) Written amendments may be offered by any Delegate.

INTRODUCTION OF LOCAL BILLS INTO THE HOUSE

19. Introduction of Bills into House by Delegation.

(a) Any proposed local bill receiving yea votes of a constitutional majority of the Delegation shall be introduced into the House of Delegates under the sponsorship of the Prince George's County Delegation.

(b) A proposed local bill not receiving the favorable support of a constitutional majority of the Delegation after three consecutive meetings at which the bill was considered shall be deemed to have failed.

(c) A proposed local bill receiving an unfavorable vote shall be deemed to have failed except upon a favorable motion to reconsider the motion by which it failed.

MOTIONS

20. Precedence of Motions.

Unless specified otherwise in these rules, the rules of the House of Delegates pertaining to precedence of motions shall apply to the Delegation and its Committees.

MINUTES

21. **Minutes.**

The Delegation shall keep minutes of its proceedings.

22. **Titles.**

When a proposed local bill or bi-county bill is submitted, its title shall be entered into the minutes in full. Thereafter, subject entries into the minutes for any such bill shall simply be by Prince George's County Bill Number or subsequent House Bill Number.

23. **Amendments.**

All amendments shall be attached to or included in the minutes when proposed.

24. **Entries in Minutes.**

(a) The name of every Delegate introducing a proposed local bill, or moving to amend a proposed local bill, shall be entered in the minutes.

(b) Every question or motion presented to the Delegation for decision, and the title of every proposed local bill considered shall be entered into the minutes.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS

25. **Persons Present.**

(a) While the Delegation is in executive session, the room shall be cleared of all persons except the Delegates and the Delegation counsel.

(b) No legislative action shall be taken by the Delegation in executive session.

(c) (1) An executive session may be called by the Chair or by a motion sustained by majority vote.

(2) The motion to call for an executive session is not debatable.

MISCELLANEOUS

26. **Suspension of Rules.**

The suspension of any rule shall require the concurrence of at least two thirds of the total number of Delegates that comprise the membership of the Delegation. Provided, however, that Rule 27 cannot be suspended.

27. **Adoption of the Rules; Repeal of Amendment of a Rule.**

(a) (1) The Rules of the Delegation shall be adopted by a majority vote of all the seated members of the Delegation in the first year of a 4-year term and shall remain in effect for the entire term.

(2) If a rule is amended or added during the 4-year term, the amended or added rule shall remain in effect for the entire term.

(b) No motion or resolution to repeal or amend a rule of the Delegation shall be considered or acted upon unless it shall have been submitted in writing to the Delegation at least one day prior thereto, together with the written text of any proposed amendment.

(c) The repeal, amendment or addition of any rule of the Delegation after being adopted for a 4-year term shall require the concurrence of at least two-thirds of the total number of Delegates.

VOTES REQUIRED

28. **Quorum.**

A constitutional majority shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

29. **Majority Required for Votes on Motions.**

A simple majority of those Delegates present shall be the majority required for votes on motions.

30. **Constitutional Majority.**

A majority of the total number of seated Delegates shall constitute a constitutional majority

31. **Two-thirds Majority.**

A two-thirds majority shall be two-thirds of the total number of Delegates that comprise the Prince George's County Delegation.

32. **Reconsideration.**

(a) A motion for reconsideration of a bill shall require a constitutional majority.

(b) Reconsideration of amendments requires a majority vote of the Delegates present.

(c) All motions for reconsideration shall take place within one week or at the next Delegation meeting.

(d) A motion for reconsideration may be offered only one time.