



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

To: Councilmembers, Anne Arundel County Council
From: Office of the County Auditor
Date: October 17, 2025
Subject: County Auditor's Review of Legislation for the October 20, 2025 Council Meeting

**Bill 67-25: Floodplain
Management, Erosion
and Sediment Control,
and Stormwater
Management – Clearing
and Pruning**

Summary of Legislation

This bill establishes new regulations for the clearing and pruning of trees, shrubs, and woody vegetation. Specifically, the bill modifies existing definitions and introduces “pruning” as a separate regulated activity with a new tiered approval process for projects within Critical Areas and Forest Conservation Easements. This bill also introduces two new plans to be used in lieu of a grading permit for newly-regulated activities and codifies fees for these new plans.

This bill was introduced on behalf of the Department of Inspections and Permits (I&P) and its effective date is contingent on the approval of the Maryland Critical Area Commission.

Review of Fiscal Impact

We are unable to independently validate the Administration's fiscal estimate using the information provided when the bill was submitted. The bill establishes application fees for Standard Grading Plans, Habitat Enhancement Plans, and Vegetation Management Plans. Revenue generated from these fees will be contingent on the volume of applications submitted to I&P for regulated activities. The Administration estimates the total revenue from fees will be \$97,500 per year. Revenue generation may be offset by unanticipated resource needs related to staff training, inspections, and public outreach surrounding new provisions.

A review of this legislation was also included in the Auditor's Review of Legislation for the September 15, 2025 Council Meeting.

**Bill 68-25: Zoning –
Animal Rescue**

Summary of Legislation

This bill defines “animal rescue” and establishes its applicability within the Anne Arundel Zoning Code as a conditional use in various zoning districts. Additionally, it authorizes an animal rescue as a home occupation. This bill was introduced at the request of the Office of Planning and Zoning.

Review of Fiscal Impact

We concur with the Administration’s Fiscal Note that this bill is not anticipated to have a fiscal impact. The Administration did not provide details with the submission of this bill on how many establishments in the County would be considered an “animal rescue” if it were to pass. This bill is only for the zoning of the property; the bill does not address any business licensing or inspection requirements by the Department of Animal Services.

A review of this legislation was also included in the Auditor’s Review of Legislation for the September 15, 2025 Council Meeting.

**Bill 76-25: Public Safety
– Sidewalks – Removal
of Snow and Ice**

Summary of Legislation

This bill establishes updated enforcement processes for removing snow and ice from sidewalks in the County after winter weather events to enhance compliance and ensure responsible use of County resources. Specifically, this bill repeals the current snow and ice removal requirements, modifies related violations from a criminal offense to a civil offense, and provides for exemptions to specific populations.

This bill was introduced on behalf of the Department of Public Works and the Department of Inspections and Permits (I&P).

Review of Fiscal Impact

We concur with the Administration's Fiscal Note. The I&P possesses the existing capacity to absorb these additional duties with minimal impact on time and resources. While some overtime may be required during severe weather events, overall costs are not expected to increase significantly.

A review of this legislation was also included in the Auditor’s Review of Legislation for the October 6, 2025 Council Meeting.

Bill 77-25: Personnel – Pay Plan – Positions in the Classified Service – Police Department – Public Ethics – Financial Disclosure

Summary of Legislation

This bill modifies the Classified Service pay plan. Specifically, this legislation removes one LM11 Police Communication Operator II position and one OS2 Office Support Assistant I from the Police Department; adds one NR15 Management Assistant I and one OS6 Office Support Specialist to the Police Department; creates the P-5 and P-6 pay grade scales within the classified service, but does not place any positions into those pay grades; and requires that Police Majors (Classified) file financial disclosure statements to the Ethics Commission.

This bill was introduced on behalf of the Office of Personnel.

Review of Fiscal Impact

The Office of the County Auditor is unable to independently validate the Administration's fiscal estimate using the information provided when the bill was submitted. However, we concur that there would be no fiscal impact at this time for creating new pay scales.

A review of this legislation was also included in the Auditor's Review of Legislation for the October 6, 2025 Council Meeting.

Bill 81-25: Subdivision and Development – Adequate Public Facilities – Adequate Transportation Facilities – Mitigation – Fees and Securities – Development Impact Fee Credits

Summary of Legislation

This bill modifies Article 17 of the County Code relating to Adequate Public Facilities (APF) standards for Transportation by replacing existing adequacy standards with a comprehensive framework expanding required APF testing from roads to include other forms of transportation such as sidewalks, bicycles, pedestrian crossings, and transit facilities. The bill also establishes a mitigation hierarchy prioritizing physical improvements and maintains impact fee credits for developers who exceed baseline adequacy requirements.

Review of Fiscal Impact

We concur with the Administration's fiscal note. A definitive estimate of this bill's fiscal impact is not possible due to the various factors involved.

Resolutions 27-25 and 28-25: A petition to the Maryland Higher Education Commission for Anne Arundel Community College funding for the Dragun Science Building (27-25)

Summary of Legislation

These resolutions seek the Council's approval to petition the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) for \$824,997 for the Dragun Science Building Renovations (R27-25) and approximately \$7.6 million for the Florestano Building Renovations (R28-25) at Anne Arundel Community College. The resolutions confirm that the County Council will submit

**and the Florestano
Building (28-25)**

resolutions to the MHEC, as procedurally required by the State and County to realize these funds.

Review of Fiscal Impact

We concur with the Administration's fiscal note. The resolutions are requesting pre-approved State funding towards the projects. However, the resolutions state that if Maryland does not approve the request, the County will cover the needed funds to complete this project, which could result in a significant financial impact on the County.
