



Anne Arundel County, Maryland
**Office of the
County Auditor**

To: Councilmembers, Anne Arundel County Council
From: Office of the County Auditor
Date: April 2, 2026
Subject: County Auditor's Review of Legislation for the April 6, 2026 Council Meeting

CB 3-26 General Development Plan – Region 8 Plan & CB 4-26 Comprehensive Zoning – Region 8

Summary of Legislation

Bills 3-26 and 4-26 adopt the Region Plan and comprehensive zoning of Region Planning Area No. 8, covering all or portions of eight communities in the southern portion of the County. Both bills require the Zoning Officer and County Council Administrative Office to keep the adopted Plan and digital zoning layer on file and authorize the Office of Planning and Zoning to amend text, maps, and related material to reflect Council amendments, correct obvious errors, and improve readability.

Review of Fiscal Impact

The Office of the County Auditor agrees with the Administration's fiscal note that these bills have no direct fiscal impact, but that implementation of the Plan and development pursuant to zoning changes could affect future County revenues and expenditures.

This legislation was also included in the Auditor's Review of Legislation for the March 16, 2026 Council Meeting.

CB 11-26 – Recreation and Parks – Article 14 Code Revision

Summary of Legislation

This bill amends Article 14 of the Anne Arundel County code relating to the Department of Recreation and Parks (Department). Modifications include but are not limited to the addition of new and/or updated terminology; expanding the authority of the Director of the Department to permit or prohibit certain activities on property overseen by the Department; clarifying provisions related to the aforementioned activities; and updating requirements pertaining to pest management plans in accordance with federal law changes.

Review of Fiscal Impact

The Office of the County Auditor cannot independently verify the Administration's Fiscal Note, which states that this bill would have no fiscal impact. While the legislation may ultimately have minimal impact on County operating costs and revenues, the Administration did not provide sufficient information to verify that this legislation will have "no effect."

This legislation was also included in the Auditor's Review of Legislation for the March 16, 2026 Council Meeting.

CB 13-26 – Construction and Property Maintenance Codes Supplement – Fire Prevention Code Amendments

Summary of Legislation

This legislation adopts the Anne Arundel County Fire Prevention Code with additions, insertions, omissions, and changes to Article 15, Title 3 and the Supplement. The County's Fire Prevention Code utilizes the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1, Fire Safety Code (2024 ed.) and the NFPA 101 Life Safety Code (2024 ed.).

Review of Fiscal Impact

The Office of the County Auditor agrees with the Administration's Fiscal Note, which states that this bill will have no direct fiscal impact on the County's operating or capital budgets. While the transition from the 2018 to the 2024 National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) code requires staff training and software updates, the Administration confirmed that these costs will be covered by existing appropriations.

Additionally, this bill removes the requirement for the Fire Marshal to conduct fire flow tests, allowing the Office of Inspections and Permits (I&P) to accept certified ("stamped") tests from third-party engineers. This shift is expected to reduce the administrative workload for County staff by transferring the primary testing burden to the applicant. The updates are not anticipated to require capital expenditures to remediate existing County infrastructure.

This legislation was also included in the Auditor's Review of Legislation for the March 16, 2026 Council Meeting.

CB 16-26 – Subdivision and Development – Adequate School Facilities – School Utilization Chart

Summary of Legislation

This bill approves the 2026 School Utilization Chart which identifies State-Rated Capacity (SRC) and enrollment projections for each public elementary, middle, and high school in Anne Arundel County. There is one change to the open/closed status since the last Chart was approved in 2025; Severna Park Middle School shifted from 'open' to 'closed'. The Chart is used to determine Adequate Public Facilities (APF) for schools.

Review of Fiscal Impact

The Office of the County Auditor agrees with the Administration's Fiscal Note. This bill has no direct fiscal impact on the County's operating or capital budgets in the current fiscal year. The bill fulfills an annual administrative requirement and has no expenditure or revenue implications beyond those already noted.

CB 17-26 General Development Plan – Region 5 Plan & CB 18-26 Comprehensive Zoning – Region 5

Summary of Legislation

Bills 17-26 and 18-26 adopt the Region Plan and comprehensive zoning of Region Planning Area No. 5, covering all or portions of six communities in the central area of the County. Both bills require the Zoning Officer and County Council Administrative Office to keep the adopted Plan and digital zoning layer on file and authorize the Office of Planning and Zoning to amend text, maps, and related material to reflect Council amendments, correct obvious errors, and improve readability.

Review of Fiscal Impact

The Office of the County Auditor agrees with the Administration's fiscal note that these bills have no direct fiscal impact, but that implementation of the Plan and development pursuant to zoning changes could affect future County revenues and expenditures.
