



Ingrid S. Watson
Council Member
District 4

People-Powered, People-Engaged

CB-013-2025

Bill Number: CB-013-2025

Name of Bill: An Act Concerning Woodland and Wildlife Habitat Conservation

Sponsors: Olson

Bill Type: Council Bill

Status: On February 18, 2025, the bill was presented in the full County Council and referred to the Transportation, Infrastructure, Energy and Environment Committee.

Bill Overview: This bill will strengthen enforcement of woodland maintenance requirements set forth in the woodland conservation ordinance; providing for periodic inspections of conservation areas after construction activities have been completed; and requiring annual reporting on inspection and enforcement activities.

Rationale for the Bill: The objective of CB-013-2025 is to Subtitle 25, Division 2 of the Prince George's County Code sets forth the County's Woodland and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Ordinance. This ordinance details the regulatory regime used to carry out the State and County policies of protecting sensitive environmental features before, during, and after land development activities. Recognizing the importance of ongoing preservation of protected areas, the Maryland Forest Conservation Act (and its associated regulations) authorizes local governments to enter into long-term maintenance agreements to protect conservation areas from conditions that adversely affect woodland health. These agreements between the County and a property owner, typically by conservation easement, require that conservation area be maintained after traditional enforcement mechanisms (permit approval, surety bonds) have ended.

Impact to D4: This bill will affect District 4 and the overall County, in terms of addressing enforcement of these maintenance responsibilities by requiring the County to conduct an initial maintenance inspection of a conservation area within two years of issuing an initial use and occupancy permit for the subject property. Following that initial inspection, the County will conduct follow-up inspections every five years. Additionally, the County will issue an annual report that details the inspections conducted during the calendar year and the resulting enforcement actions. The annual report will be submitted to the Planning Department and County Council.