Introduced	
Public Hearing —	
Council Action —	
Executive Action	
Effective Date —	

## **County Council of Howard County, Maryland**

2023 Legislative Session Legislative Day No. 13

## Bill No. 41 -2023

Introduced by: The Chairperson at the request of the County Executive

AN ACT amending the Adequate Public Facilities Act in order to remove references to specific types of housing unit allocations; removing references to "geographic" targets as a basis for the housing unit allocation chart; and generally relating to the Adequate Public Facilities Act of Howard County.

ntroduced and read first time, 2023.	Oraerea poste	a and nearing scheduled.
	By order_	
		Michelle Harrod, Administrator
Having been posted and notice of time & place of hearing & title second time at a public hearing on		g been published according to Charter, the Bill was read for
	By order _	
		Michelle Harrod, Administrator
This Bill was read the third time on, 2023 and Pas	ssed, Pas	sed with amendments, Failed
	By order _	
		Michelle Harrod, Administrator
Sealed with the County Seal and presented to the County Execut	tive for appro	val thisday of, 2023 at a.m./p.m.
	By order _	Michelle Harrod, Administrator
		Michelle Harrod, Administrator
Approved/Vetoed by the County Executive	, 2023	

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing law; TEXT IN SMALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing law; Strike-out indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment

1	WHEREAS, HoCo By Design, when effective, will become the new General Plan for
2	Howard County, supplanting PlanHoward 2030; and
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4	WHEREAS, HoCo By Design renders various provisions of the Adequate Public
5	Facilities Act of Howard County that reference elements of PlanHoward 2030 obsolete; and
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7	WHEREAS, Section 16.1102(b) of the Howard County Code requires the Department of
8	Planning and Zoning to prepare and update a Housing Unit Allocation Chart that incorporates
9	General Plan projections for the number of housing unit allocations available to be granted in the
10	County each year; and
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12	WHEREAS, Sections 16.1102(b)(1) and 16.1110(o) of the Howard County Code each
13	reference the following "geographic areas" or "Designated Place Types," established in
14	PlanHoward 2030, for purposes of distributing housing allocations in the Housing Unit
15	Allocation Chart: Downtown Columbia; Growth and Revitalization; Established Communities;
16	Green Neighborhood; and the Rural West; and
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18	WHEREAS, HoCo By Design eliminates the Green Neighborhood allocations and
19	moves away from the "Designated Place Types" outlined in PlanHoward 2030, in favor of
20	"Character Areas."
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22	NOW, THEREFORE,
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24	Section 1. Be It Enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that the Howard
25	County Code is amended as follows:
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27	By amending
28	Title 16, Planning, Zoning and Subdivisions and Land Development Regulations.
29	Subsection (b) of Section 16.1102 "Housing unit allocation concept; housing unit
30	allocation chart"
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1			Subsection (g) of Section 16.1104. Housing unit allocation process.
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3			Subsection (l) and Subsection (o) of Section 16.1110 "Definitions"
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5		T	Title 16. Planning, Zoning and Subdivisions and Land Development Regulations.
6			Subtitle 11. Adequate Public Facilities.
7			
8	Sec	tion	16.1102. Housing unit allocation concept; housing unit allocation chart.
9	(b)	Ног	using Unit Allocation Chart:
10		(1)	Description. The housing unit allocation chart is a chart indicating the projected
11			number of housing unit allocations available to be granted in the County each year for
12			a ten-year period. The chart is designed to specify housing unit allocations for the
13			scheduled completion year of a project or any phase of a project. [[The chart divides
14			the available housing unit allocations into the following categories based on
15			geographic areas as set forth in the general plan: Growth and revitalization, established
16			communities, the Rural West and Downtown Columbia, and green neighborhood
17			units.]]
18		(2)	Basis. The basis of the housing unit allocation chart is the general PLAN'S [[plan
19			geographic]] targets for residential growth. However, if the general plan monitoring
20			report indicates that general plan policies for agricultural preservation and
21			environmental protection are not being met, the housing unit allocation chart may be
22			adjusted to more effectively achieve these policies.
23		(3)	Preparation and adoption. The Department of Planning and Zoning shall prepare and
24			update the housing unit allocation chart for consideration and adoption by the County
25			Council. Once each year, and more often if the Council determines that amendments
26			are appropriate, the County Council shall adopt the housing unit allocation chart by
27			resolution, after a public hearing. Whenever the housing unit allocation chart is
28			adopted or amended, the school capacity chart shall be adopted or amended
29			concurrently to be consistent.
30		(4)	Amendments for economic development, grants, etc. From time to time, the County
31			may be presented with opportunities for economic development [o]r availabilities of
32			state or federal grant moneys which require increasing the number of housing unit

allocations for distribution for a given year. In order to take advantage of these 1 2 opportunities, the County Council may, at any time, amend the housing unit allocation chart for a certain year or years. If the Council makes such an amendment, it shall use 3 4 the rolling average (see section 16.1110, "definitions") to amend the number and/or distribution of allocations for subsequent years. 5 6 [[(5) Green neighborhood allocations. To encourage sustainable residential planning and design, to minimize adverse impacts on natural resources, and to promote energy 7 8 efficiency, beginning in fiscal year 2008: 9 The annual housing unit allocation chart may move up to 100 allocations per year 10 from other housing allocation categories to be used solely for housing that meets green neighborhood standards adopted by resolution of the County Council; 11 12 (ii) A development using green neighborhood allocations shall satisfy the remaining applicable provisions of this subtitle. 11 13 Downtown Columbia Housing allocations. To encourage the revitalization of 14 ([[6]]5)Downtown Columbia, beginning in fiscal year 2011 the number of housing unit 15 allocations shall be increased to provide allocations consistent with the phasing 16 progression in the adopted Downtown Columbia plan as follows: 17 (i) For Downtown Columbia revitalization, the housing unit allocation chart adopted 18 each year by the County Council shall include the total number of residential units 19 20 allowed in the current phase of the downtown revitalization phasing progression, and shall also include the total number of units allowed in the downtown 21 revitalization phasing progression for all subsequent phases of downtown 22 revitalization. 23 (ii) The annual distribution of allocations within each phase shall ensure that 24 25 sufficient allocations are available at the beginning of each phase to take advantage of mixed-use market opportunities and ensure timely achievement of 26 phasing progression and CEPPA requirements. 27 (iii) The granting of allocations for downtown revitalization is made independent of 28 29 and without reference to the number of allocations for the planning region of 30 Columbia. The granting of allocations for development under new Town zoning 31 that is not subject to the downtown revitalization phasing progression continues to

be based on the allocations for the Columbia Planning Region.

1	[[(iv)Development in Downtown Columbia may not use Green Neighborhood
2	allocations. ]]
3	[[(v)]](IV) If the total number of residential units proposed in a final development
4	plan application exceeds the number of available allocations for the scheduled
5	completion year of either the initial phase or any additional phase(s), the
6	developer may request and the Department of Planning and Zoning shall authorize
7	the advancing of allocations from future years needed to complete a
8	comprehensive final development plan provided that:
9	a. The plan complies with phasing progression requirements;
10	b. All necessary CEPPA requirements have been met;
11	c. All adequate public facilities transportation tests have been passed; and
12	d. The adequate public facilities schools tests have been passed.
13	[[(vi)]](V) Redistribution of housing unit allocations within an approved final
14	development plan is permitted within the first four years of the final development
15	plan phasing without being subject to section 16.1104(b) or retesting for housing
16	unit allocations and adequate school facilities provided:
17	a. The total number of housing unit allocations approved by the final
18	development plan is not exceeded;
19	b. Milestones are satisfied for all plan processing;
20	c. The redistribution of units complies with the downtown revitalization
21	phasing progression requirements; and
22	d. All necessary CEPPA requirements have been met.
23	The redistribution of units may be subject to retesting for adequate transportation
24	facilities if the Department of Planning and Zoning, in consultation with the
25	Department of Public Works, finds it appropriate to retest based on the number of
26	units being redistributed and existing critical lane volume.
27	After the first four years of the final development plan phasing, any redistribution
28	of housing unit allocations will require rephasing under section 16.1104.(b).
29	[[(vii)]](VI) Allocations will become permanent upon the recordation of the approved
30	final development plan, and will remain valid provided the developer continues to
31	meet all required milestones.

- 1 Section 16.1104. Housing unit allocation process.
- 2 [[(g) Order of Granting Allocations. If a project is eligible for allocations from more than one
- 3 category, an allocation granted under this subtitle shall generally be granted from the appropriate
- 4 geographic area, prior to granting green neighborhood allocations. The Department may grant
- 5 allocations to a project in a different sequence if the grant more equitably distributes allocations
- 6 among all projects waiting for allocations.]]

## 8 Section 16.1110. Definitions.

- 9 (a) Affordable housing unit means a moderate or middle income housing unit as defined in the
- 10 Howard County Zoning Regulations.
- 11 (a-1) Available housing unit allocations are the number of housing unit allocations that the
- Department of Planning and Zoning may grant in any year, based on the housing unit
- allocation chart adopted by the County Council less housing unit allocations already granted
- for that year.
- 15 (b) Background traffic growth is the traffic, other than traffic existing at the time of application,
- which will be generated by:
- 17 (1) Regional pass-through users; and
- 18 (2) Projects which are not subject to the test for adequate road facilities.
- 19 (c) Bulk parcel—Residential means a residential parcel recorded for the purpose of
- development of apartments, single-family attached, single-family detached or mobile home
- 21 units on a single lot where tentative housing unit allocations have been granted.
- 22 (d) Capacity means when used in relation to road facilities, capacity means the total number of
- vehicles that can be accommodated by a road facility during a specified time period under
- 24 prevailing roadway operating conditions.
- 25 (d-1) Capacity utilization means the ratio of a facility's enrollment to its program capacity.
- 26 (e) Comprehensive project means a project in the following zoning districts:
- 27 (1) New Town (NT)
- 28 (2) Planned Golf Course Community (PGCC)
- 29 (3) Mixed Use (MXD)
- 30 (4) Residential: Apartments (R-A-15)
- 31 (f) Constrained road facility means in the planned service area for water and sewerage, a
- 32 constrained road facility means the intersection of a major collector or higher classified road

- with a major collector or higher classified road which has historic or environmental value which would be adversely affected by certain road improvements.
- 3 In the no-planned service area for water and sewerage, a constrained road facility means the
- 4 intersection of a minor collector or higher classified road with a minor collector or higher
- 5 classified road which has historic or environmental value which would be adversely affected by
- 6 certain road improvements.

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- 7 The County Council, by resolution, declares a road facility constrained and identifies the
- 8 feature(s) which form the basis for its decision to declare the road facility constrained.
- 9 (g) Conventional project means a project other than a comprehensive project.
- (h) *Downtown Columbia* means the geographic area defined as Downtown Columbia in section
   103 of the Howard County Zoning Regulations.
- 12 (i) Exempt governmental facility means:
- 13 (1) A facility to be owned or operated by the Federal Government, State Government, 14 Howard County Public Schools, or any agency thereof;
- 15 (2) A facility owned by Howard County or any agency thereof where essential County
  16 Government services are provided, limited to police services, fire prevention and
  17 suppression services, emergency medical services, highway maintenance, detention
  18 facilities, water treatment and supply, sewage disposal and treatment and solid waste
  19 disposal.
  - (j) Final development plan proposing Downtown Columbia Revitalization means a drawing or series of drawings, at an appropriate scale, and related text covering all or a portion of Downtown Columbia that proposes development pursuant to section 125.E of the zoning regulations.
- 24 (k) Floor area ratio means the ratio of the floor area of a structure to the lot area, where:
- 25 (1) The floor area is calculated by measuring the exterior faces of the walls of the structure 26 minus any area within the structure devoted to parking, driveways, atria, enclosed 27 malls and similar areas; and
- 28 (2) The lot area is calculated including any adjoining lots used for required parking for the structure.
- 30 (1) *General plan target; general plan residential growth target* means for the purposes of this subtitle, the general plan target and general plan residential growth target mean the housing

- unit projections established in the general plan [[for each planning area including the senior east set aside, and in addition 250 housing units per year for Route 1 revitalization]].
- (m) Governmental action means the action or inaction of a governmental agency in relation to a
   timely filed action by a developer. For the purposes of this subtitle, governmental agency
   means an agency of the Federal, State, or local government, including, but not limited to,
   the U.S. Corps of Engineers, the Maryland Department of the Environment, the Zoning
   Board, and the Board of Appeals.
- 8 (n) Housing unit allocation or allocation means an approval to build a housing unit.

- (1) *Tentative housing unit allocation* or *tentative allocation* means the temporary approval, granted during the subdivision plan process, to build a housing unit in a project which requires housing unit allocations as a condition of project approval.
- (2) Permanent housing unit allocation or permanent allocation means a permanent approval, granted at recordation of a subdivision or at site development plan approval, to build a housing unit in a project which requires housing unit allocations as a condition of project approval.
- (o) *Housing unit allocation chart* means a chart indicating the projected number of housing unit allocations available to be granted in the County each year for a ten-year period. [[The chart divides the available housing unit allocations into geographic areas and may provide for green neighborhood and Downtown Columbia units. In a given year, no more than 35 percent of the allocations available in the growth and revitalization region may be granted to projects in a particular planning area, as established by PlanHoward 2030, Map 6-2 "Designated Place Types".]] The number of housing unit allocations on the chart shall be as follows:
  - (1) In the first year after the effective date of this subtitle the number of housing unit allocations on the chart for that year and each of the next two years shall equal the general plan annual target for residential completions for those years.
  - (2) In the second year after the effective date of this subtitle, the number of housing unit allocations on the chart for that year and for each of the next two years, based on the rolling average, shall be the general plan target for residential completions for the year in question minus one-third of the difference between:
    - (i) The number of housing unit allocations granted during the prior year plus the number of housing units in projects approved during the prior year which were

- exempt from the provisions of this subtitle pursuant to subsections 16.1107(b)(1) and (5) of this subtitle; and
  - (ii) The prior year's general plan target.
  - (3) In the third and later years after the effective date of this subtitle, the number of housing unit allocations on the chart for the current year and for each of the next two years, based on the rolling average, shall be the general plan target for residential completions for the year in question minus one-third of the difference between:
    - (i) The housing unit allocations granted during the two preceding years plus the housing units in projects approved during two preceding years which were exempt from the provisions of this subtitle pursuant to subsections 16.1107(b)(1) and (5) of this subtitle; and
    - (ii) The sum of the general plan targets for the two preceding years.
  - (p) Howard County Design Manual means Chapter 4 of Volume III (Roads and Bridges) of the Howard County Design Manual which specifies requirements for adequate transportation facilities.
- 16 (q) *Impact area*:

(1) Impact area means the set of intersections to be studied. In accordance with the table below, the projected trip generation of a project shall determine the minimum number of intersections to be included in the impact area.

Net Peak Hour Site Trips	Minimum Number of Intersections in Each Direction
5—99	1
100—399	2
400—799	3
800—1500	4
>1500	5

(2) For projects in the planned service area for public water and sewer, excluding Downtown Columbia, the standard impact area is limited to intersections within one and a half road miles in all directions from each entrance to the project. For projects outside the planned service area for public water and sewer, the standard impact area is limited to intersections within two road miles in all directions from each entrance to the project. Inside the planned service area for public water and sewer, the minimum

number of intersections in each direction refers to intersections of a major collector or higher classified road with a major collector or higher classified road for the standard impact area. Outside the planned service area for public water and sewer, the minimum number of intersections in each direction refers to intersections of a minor collector or higher classified road with a minor collector or higher classified road for the standard impact area. Inside or outside the planned service area for public water and sewer, if an intersection at an entrance to the project is included in the impact area, it shall not count toward the minimum number of intersections in each direction.

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(3) If a development is projected to generate 100 peak hour trips or more for either the AM or PM study period, the developer shall request a traffic impact area scoping meeting prior to submitting the plan for the development. The Department of Planning and Zoning shall determine whether the scoping meeting will be conducted by email, phone, in-person, or virtual meeting, and shall, together with the Department of Public Works, conduct the meeting with the developer to discuss if the distance of the standard impact area should be extended or if any additional intersections should be included in the impact area. The Department of Planning and Zoning, in consultation with the Department of Public Works, shall determine the additional intersections to be studied, if any, based on intersection location, anticipated trip distribution, existing level of service, or known operational complaints and notify the developer in writing of the intersections to be studied within one week following the scoping meeting. The Department of Planning and Zoning may waive the requirement to study a certain intersection if the Department of Public Works has on file a valid traffic study of that intersection which was completed within the last year. If, during the plan review process, the peak hour trips generated by the proposed development changes by ten percent or more or by 15 trips or more, whichever is greater, a new scoping meeting will be required and the Department of Planning and Zoning, in consultation with the Department of Public Works, may require additional intersections to be studied based on intersection location, anticipated trip distribution, existing level of service, or known operational complaints.

For Downtown Columbia the impact area shall be determined in accordance with the Howard County Design Manual.

1	(r)	Initial plan stage.	An initial pla	n stage means	aithar (i)	a ckatch nlan	or preliminary
1	(T)	muuai pian siage.	An initial bia	m stage means	s eimer (i) a	a sketch pian	or bremminary

- equivalent sketch plan under the Subdivision and Land Development Regulations; (ii) a
- 3 final development plan proposing downtown revitalization under the zoning regulations; or
- 4 (iii) a site development plan if subdivision is not required.
- 5 (s) Major collector or major collector highway means a road classified as a major collector
- 6 highway on the Howard County general plan, except that in determining the impact area for
- 7 site development plans, major collector also means a road, not classified as a major
- 8 collector highway on the Howard County general plan, but constructed to the physical
- 9 specifications set forth in the design manual for construction of a road so classified.
- 10 (t) Major facilities agreement means an agreement between the County, the State, if
- appropriate, and the developer of a project incorporating the developer's approved
- mitigation plan and covering the developer's financial obligations for mitigation.
- 13 (u) *Milestone* means the date, unless delayed by governmental action, by which a developer
- must submit the next plan stage of a subdivision to the Department of Planning and Zoning
- for approval.
- 16 (v) Minimum level of service for Howard County road facilities, excluding Downtown
- 17 Columbia means level of service D. minimum level of service of a State road facility means
- level of service E. for Downtown Columbia, the intersection standard is established in the
- 19 Howard County Design Manual.
- 20 (w) Minor collector or minor collector highway means a road classified as a minor collector
- 21 highway on the Howard County general plan.
- 22 (x) *Minor subdivision* means the division of a residential or agricultural parcel that has not been
- part of a previously recorded subdivision, into four or fewer residential lots (including
- buildable preservation parcels but excluding open space and nonbuildable preservation
- parcels), either all at one time or lot by lot.
- 26 (x-1) *Mitigation* means the construction or the funding of improvements to off-site road
- facilities by a developer, as approved by the Director of Planning and Zoning, after
- consultation with the Director of Public Works.
- 29 (y) *Open*:
- 30 (1) For a school capacity chart adopted prior to January 1, 2019, open has the following
- 31 meanings:

- (i) School region—Open means that the projected capacity utilization of a school 1 2 region is below 115 percent of the elementary schools within the region. (ii) Elementary school—Open means that the projected capacity utilization of the 3 4 elementary school is below 115 percent of the school. 5 (iii) Middle school—Open means that the projected capacity utilization of the middle school is below 115 percent of the school. 6 7 (2) For a school capacity chart adopted after January 1, 2019, open has the following 8 meanings: 9 School region—Open means that the projected enrollment of a school region is 10 below 105 percent of the program capacity of the elementary schools within the region. 11 (ii) Elementary school—Open means that the projected enrollment of the elementary 12 13 school is below 105 percent of the program capacity of the school. (iii) Middle school—Open means that the projected enrollment of the middle school is 14 below 110 percent of the program capacity of the school. 15 16 (iv) High school—Open means that the projected enrollment of the high school is below 115 percent of the program capacity of the school. 17 (z) Phased project means a project utilizing phasing. 18 (aa) *Phasing* means the sequential development of portions of a subdivision pursuant to a sketch 19 20 plan which includes a schedule for submission of preliminary and final plan applications for the various phases of the project and a schedule for completion of these phases. 21 22 (ab) *Plan stage* means one of the three levels of a subdivision plan—sketch plan, preliminary 23 plan, and final plan. 24 (ac) Planning region means a geographic area of the County identified in the general plan that is 25 used for forecasting housing growth. 26 (ad) *Program capacity* means the capacity, as defined by the Howard County Board of 27 Education policies, for grades kindergarten through grade 12. Program capacity does not include prekindergarten, special education and relocatable capacity. 28 (ae) Road facilities: 29
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planned service area for public water and sewer, road facilities means at grade

(1) In planned service area for public water and sewer. In that portion of the County in the

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- intersections of major collectors or higher classified roads which are beyond the boundaries of the proposed project.
  - (2) In no planned service area for public water and sewer. In that portion of the County in the no planned service area for public water and sewer, road facilities means at grade intersections of minor collectors or higher classified roads which are beyond the boundaries of the proposed project.
  - (3) Road facilities does not include road improvements which a developer is required to provide pursuant to the provisions of section 16.119, "Highways, Streets, and Roads," of the subdivision regulations.
  - (af) *Rolling average* means to recalculate the number of available housing unit allocations for a given year in order to manage housing unit allocations under the general plan residential growth targets.

Beginning on July 1, 2020, all prior available allocations are expired and shall be excluded from the rolling average. Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, beginning on July 1, 2020, no more than ten percent of the available allocations from the immediately preceding year's housing unit allocation chart may be included in the recalculation of the rolling average. This provision shall not apply to Downtown Columbia housing unit allocations.

- (ag) Scheduled completion year:
  - (1) Road facilities:

- (i) Nonresidential projects means when used in relation to road facilities serving nonresidential projects, "scheduled completion year" means the year as approved on the subdivision or site development plan, for scheduled completion of the project or phases of the project.
- (ii) Residential projects:
  - a. When used in relation to road facilities serving unphased residential projects,
     "scheduled completion year" means the third year following the year the
     application is submitted.
  - b. When used in relation to road facilities serving phased conventional residential projects, "scheduled completion year" of the initial phase of the project means the third year following the year the application is submitted.
     The scheduled completion year of subsequent phases of the project are the

years indicated for scheduled completion of the phases of the project as 1 2 approved on the subdivision or site development plan. When used in relation to road facilities serving phased comprehensive 3 4 residential projects, "scheduled completion year" of the phases of the project means the years indicated for scheduled completion of the phases of the 5 6 project as approved on the subdivision or site development plan. 7 (2) Schools: 8 (i) When used in relation to schools, "scheduled completion year" of an unphased project means the third year following approval of the project for adequate school 9 facilities. 10 (ii) When used in relation to schools, "scheduled completion year" of the initial phase 11 12 of a phased conventional project means the third year following approval of the project for adequate school facilities. 13 (iii) When used in relation to schools, "scheduled completion year" of a phase of a 14 phased conventional project beyond the initial phase means the year for 15 16 completion of the phase, as shown in the application for sketch plan approval of the project. 17 (iv) When used in relation to schools, "scheduled completion year" of a phase of a 18 19 comprehensive project, means the year, at least three years following the year the 20 sketch plan application is submitted, for completion of the phase, as shown in the 21 application for sketch plan approval of the project. 22 (ah) School capacity chart means a chart indicating which elementary school regions and which elementary, middle, and high schools are open to new residential development and which 23 are constrained to new residential development for each of the following ten years. 24 25 (ai) School capacity test means a test to determine whether the elementary school region and elementary, middle, and high school serving a proposed project are open to new residential 26 development in the scheduled completion year of the project or the phases of the project. 27 28 (aj) School region means a geographic area, determined by the Howard County Board of 29 Education, containing a group of contiguous elementary school service areas. 30 (ak) *Unphased project* means a project which does not utilize phasing.

Section 2. And Be It Further Enacted by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland that

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this Act shall become effective 61 days after its enactment.