COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND

2020 Legislative Session

BILL NO. 2020-07

Introduced by Charles County Commissioners

BY adding: Chapter 299. Resilience Authority Sections 299.01 through 299.15

Date introduced: 11 / 17 / 2020		
Public Hearing: 12 / 08 / 2020 @6:00 p.m.		
Commissioners Action: 12 / 08 / 2020		
Commissioner Votes: RBC: Y , BR: A , GB: Y , TC: Y , AS: Y		
Pass/Fail: Pass		
Effective Date:01 / 22 / 2021		
Remarks:		

NOTE: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing text. [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

1	COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND			
2				
3	2020 Legislative Session			
4				
5	Bill No2020-07			
6	Chapter. No. 299			
7	Introduced by Charles County Commissioners			
8	Date of Introduction <u>11/17/2020</u>			
9	BILL			
10	AN ACT concerning:			
11	Resilience Authority of Charles County			
12				
13	FOR the purpose of			
14	Establishing the creation of a Resilience Authority that is empowered to secure financing			
15	for resilience infrastructure projects that mitigate the effects of climate change in Charles			
16	County as set forth in Title 22 of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of			
17	Maryland.			
18				
19	BY adding:			
20	Chapter 299. Resilience Authority			
21	Sections 299.01 through 299.15			
22	Code of Charles County, Maryland			
23	(2019 Edition)			
24	ž			
25	SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF			
26	CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the Laws of Charles County, Maryland, read as			
27	follows:			
28	CHAPTER 299 – RESILIENCE AUTHORITY.			
29				
30	SECTION 299.01. PURPOSE.			
31	THE RESILIENCE AUTHORITY OF CHARLES COUNTY WILL UNDERTAKE AND			
32	SUPPORT RESILIENCE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS, THAT MITIGATE THE EFFECTS			
33	OF CLIMATE CHANGE BY OFFERING A RANGE OF FINANCING STRUCTURES,			
	Asterisks *** mean intervening code language remaining unchanged NOTE: CAPITALS indicate language added to existing law. [Brackets] indicate language deleted from existing law.			

1	FORMS, AND TECHNIQUES AND LEVERAGES PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT				
2	AND STIMULATES DEMAND FOR RESILIENCE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS				
3	THROUGHOUT CHARLES COUNTY.				
4					
5	SECTION 299.02. DECLARATION OF NEED.				
6	(1) THE IMPACTS FROM CLIMATE CHANGE ARE HAPPENING NOW IN				
7	COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE STATE OF MARYLAND; AND				
8	(2) THESE IMPACTS BIGHTIPE DISDIC TEMPERATURES MALION DANS AND STORMS				
9	(2) THESE IMPACTS INCLUDE RISING TEMPERATURES, MAJOR RAIN AND STORM				
10	EVENTS, SEA LEVEL RISE, AND CHANGES IN PRECIPITATION PATTERNS; AND				
11 12	(3) THOSE THINGS THAT MARYLAND COMMUNITIES DEPEND UPON AND VALUE-				
13	NATURAL RESOURCES AND ECOSYSTEMS, ENERGY, TRANSPORTATION,				
14	AGRICULTURE, CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES, HUMAN HEALTH, AND				
15	ECONOMIC GROWTH – ARE EXPERIENCING, AND WILL CONTINUE TO				
16	EXPERIENCE, THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGES; AND				
17					
18	(4) COMMUNITIES IN COASTAL STATES ACCOUNT FOR NEARLY HALF OF THE				
19	NATION'S POPULATION AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY, AND THAT CUMULATIVE				
20	DAMAGE TO PROPERTY IN THOSE AREAS COULD REACH \$3.5 TRILLION BY 2060;				
21	AND				
22 23	(5) LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WILL BEAR MUCH OF THE RESPONSIBILITY AND				
24					
25	COST REQUIRED TO MITIGATE THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT; AND				
100000 1000000	SCILITER (9) (1500 (1900 (1505) SCILITER (1500				
26 27	(6) A RESILIENCE AUTHORITY CAN WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH				
27 28	CHARLES COUNTY TO ACCELERATE INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING,				
28 29	REDUCE THE COST OF IMPLEMENTATION, AND MITIGATE AND MANAGE THE RISKS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.				
30	RISKS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.				
31					
32					
33	SECTION 299.03. DEFINITIONS.				
34	IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS Asterisks *** mean intervening code language remaining unchanged NOTE: CAPITALS indicate language added to existing law. [Brackets] indicate language deleted from existing law.				

1	INDICATED.				
2 3	(1) "BOND" MEANS AN OBLIGATION FOR THE PAYMENT OF MONEY, BY				
4	WHATEVER NAME KNOWN OR SOURCE OF FUNDS SECURED, ISSUED BY				
5	THE CHARLES COUNTY GOVERNMENT OR THE RESILIENCE AUTHORITY				
6	UNDER STATE AND LOCAL GENERAL OR SPECIAL STATUTORY AUTHORITY.				
7					
8	(2) "BOND" INCLUDES A REFUNDING BOND, A NOTE, AND ANY OTHER				
9	OBLIGATION.				
10 11	(3) "CAPITAL COSTS" MEANS COSTS INCURRED FOR ACQUISITION, PLANNING,				
12	DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, REPAIR, RENOVATION, RECONSTRUCTION,				
13	EXPANSION, SITE IMPROVEMENT, AND CAPITAL EQUIPPING.				
14					
15	(4) "CHIEF EXECUTIVE" MEANS THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF				
16	COMMISSIONERS.				
17 18	(5) "CLIMATE CHANGE" INCLUDES SEA LEVEL RISE. NUISANCE FLOODING.				
19	(5) "CLIMATE CHANGE" INCLUDES SEA LEVEL RISE, NUISANCE FLOODING, INCREASED RAINFALL EVENTS, EROSION, AND TEMPERATURE RISE.				
20	INCREASED RAINFALE EVENTS, EROSION, AND TEMPERATURERISE.				
21	(6) "LOCAL LAW" MEANS A LEGISLATIVE ACT OF CHARLES COUNTY.				
22 23	(7) "RESILIENCE AUTHORITY" MEANS THE AUTHORITY INCORPORATED BY				
24	CHARLES COUNTY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS CHAPTER WHOSE PURPOSE IS				
25	TO UNDERTAKE OR SUPPORT RESILIENCE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.				
26	TO ONDERTAKE OR SOTTORT RESIEIENCE INTRASTRUCTURE TROJECTS.				
27	(8) (A) "RESILIENCE INFRASTRUCTURE" MEANS INFRASTRUCTURE THAT				
28	MITIGATES THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.				
29	(B) "RESILIENCE INFRASTRUCTURE" INCLUDES FLOOD BARRIERS, GREEN				
30	SPACES, BUILDING ELEVATION, AND STORMWATERINFRASTRUCTURE.				
31					
32	(9) "RESILIENCE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT" MEANS A PROJECT TO FINANCE				
33	OR REFINANCE THE CAPITAL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH RESILIENCE				
34	INFRASTRUCTURE.				
35 36	SECTION 299.04. COUNTY AUTHORIZATION				
37	(A) CHARLES COUNTY IS AUTHORIZED TO CREATE A RESILIENCE AUTHORITY Asterisks *** mean intervening code language remaining unchanged NOTE: CAPITALS indicate language added to existing law. [Brackets] indicate language deleted from existing law.				

34

1	(3) THE ARTICLES OF AMENDMENT SHALL BE FILED FOR			
2	RECORD WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENTS AND TAXATION.			
3	(4) THE ARTICLES OF AMENDMENT ARE EFFECTIVE AS OF THE			
5	(4) THE ARTICLES OF AMENDMENT ARE EFFECTIVE AS OF THE TIME THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENTS AND TAXATION ACCEPTS THE			
6	ARTICLES FOR RECORD.			
7	ARTICLES FOR RECORD.			
8	(5) ACCEPTANCE OF THE ARTICLES OF AMENDMENT FOR RECORD			
9	BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ASSESSMENTS AND TAXATION IS CONCLUSIVE			
10	EVIDENCE THAT THE ARTICLES HAVE BEEN LAWFULLY AND PROPERLY			
11	ADOPTED.			
12				
13	(G) (1) SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THIS CHAPTER AND ANY			
14	LIMITATIONS IMPOSED BY LAW ON THE IMPAIRMENT OF CONTRACTS, THE			
15	CHARLES COUNTY GOVERNMENT, IN ITS SOLE DISCRETION, BY			
16	LOCAL LAW MAY:			
17				
18	(I) SET OR CHANGE THE POWERS, STRUCTURE,			
19	ORGANIZATION, PROCEDURES, PROGRAMS, OR ACTIVITIES OF THE RESILIENCE			
20	AUTHORITY;			
21 22	(II) DETERMINE THE REVENUE SOURCES OF THE			
23	RESILIENCE AUTHORITY, INCLUDING THE USE OF GENERAL FUND REVENUE AND			
24	GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS;			
25	GENERAL OBEIGNTION BONDS,			
26	(III) ESTABLISH THE BUDGETARY AND FINANCIAL			
27	PROCEDURES OF THE RESILIENCE AUTHORITY; AND			
28				
29 30	(IV) TERMINATE THE RESILIENCE AUTHORITY.			
31	(2) ON TERMINATION OF A RESILIENCE AUTHORITY:			
32 33	(I) TITLE TO ALL PROPERTY OF THE RESILIENCE			
34	AUTHORITY SHALL BE TRANSFERRED TO AND BE VESTED IN THE CHARLES			
35	COUNTY GOVERNMENT; AND			
36				

1	(II) ALL OBLIGATIONS OF THE RESILIENCE AUTHORITY					
2	SHALL BE TRANSFERRED TO AND ASSUMED BY THE CHARLES COUNTY					
3	GOVERNMENT.					
4 5 6	SECTION 299.05. OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.					
7	(A) OFFICERS GOVERNING THE RESILIENCE AUTHORITY AND					
8	EMPLOYEES OF THE RESILIENCE AUTHORITY SHALL BE APPOINTED OR HIRED					
9	AS PROVIDED BY LOCAL LAW AND THE BYLAWS OF THE RESILIENCE					
10	AUTHORITY.					
11						
12	(B) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS CHAPTER, THE					
13	PROCEDURES OF THE CHARLES COUNTY GOVERNMENT CONTROL ANY					
14	PERSONNEL MATTER RELATING TO THE INTERNAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE					
15	RESILIENCE AUTHORITY.					
16						
17 18	SECTION 299.06. EARNINGS AND BENEFITS.					
19	EXCEPT AS NECESSARY TO PAY DEBT SERVICE OR IMPLEMENT THE PUBLIC					
20	PURPOSES OR PROGRAMS OF THE CHARLES COUNTY GOVERNMENT, THE NET					
21	EARNINGS OF THE RESILIENCE AUTHORITY OF CHARLES COUNTY MAY BENEFIT					
22	ONLY THE CHARLES COUNTY GOVERNMENT AND MAY NOT BENEFIT ANY					
23	PERSON.					
24						
25 26	SECTION 299.07. POWERS OF THE RESILIENCE AUTHORITY.					
27	(A) EXCEPT AS LIMITED BY THE LOCAL LAW ESTABLISHING THE					
28	RESILIENCE AUTHORITY OR ITS ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION, THE RESILIENCE					
29	AUTHORITY HAS ALL THE POWERS UNDER THIS CHAPTER.					
30 31 32 33	(B) THE RESILIENCE AUTHORITY HAS AND MAY EXERCISE ALL POWERS					
34	NECESSARY OR CONVENIENT TO UNDERTAKE, FINANCE, MANAGE, ACQUIRE,					
35	OWN, CONVEY, OR SUPPORT RESILIENCE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS,					
36	INCLUDING THE POWER TO:					

1	(1) ACQUIRE BY PURCHASE, LEASE, OR OTHER LEGAL MEANS, BUT			
2	NOT BY EMINENT DOMAIN, PROPERTY FOR RESILIENCE INFRASTRUCTURE;			
3	(2) ESTABLISH, CONSTRUCT, ALTER, IMPROVE, EQUIP, REPAIR,			
4	MAINTAIN, OPERATE, AND REGULATE RESILIENCE INFRASTRUCTURE			
5	OWNED BY THE CHARLES COUNTY GOVERNMENT OR THE RESILIENCE			
6	AUTHORITY;			
7	(3) RECEIVE MONEY FROM THE CHARLES COUNTY GOVERNMENT,			
8	THE STATE, OTHER GOVERNMENTAL UNITS, OR PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS;			
9	(4) CHARGE AND COLLECT FEES FOR ITS SERVICES;			
10 11	(5) SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF			
12	COMMISSIONERS, CHARGE AND COLLECT FEES TO BACK ITS BOND			
13	ISSUANCES;			
14	(6) HAVE EMPLOYEES AND CONSULTANTS AS IT CONSIDERS			
15	NECESSARY;			
16 17	(7) USE THE SERVICES OF OTHER GOVERNMENTAL UNITS; AND			
18	(8) ACT AS NECESSARY OR CONVENIENT TO CARRY OUT THE			
19	POWERS GRANTED TO IT BY LAW.			
20				
21 22	SECTION 299.08. BOND ISSUANCE.			
23	(A) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW, THE RESILIENCE			
24	AUTHORITY MAY ISSUE AND SELL BONDS PERIODICALLY:			
25 26	(1) FOR RESILIENCE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS;			
27 28 29	(2) TO REFUND OUTSTANDING BONDS;			
30	(3) TO PAY THE COSTS OF PREPARING, PRINTING, SELLING, AND			
31	ISSUING THE BONDS;			
32 33 34	(4) TO FUND RESERVES; AND			
35	(5) TO PAY THE INTEREST ON THE BONDS IN THE AMOUNT AND FOR THE			
36	PERIOD THE RESILIENCE AUTHORITY CONSIDERS REASONABLE.			
37 38	(B) BONDS ISSUED BY THE RESILIENCE AUTHORITY ARE			

1	(A) THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON BONDS, THE TRANSFER OF			
2	BONDS, AND ANY INCOME DERIVED FROM THE BONDS, INCLUDING PROFITS			
3	MADE IN THEIR SALE OR TRANSFER, ARE FOREVER EXEMPT FROM STATE			
4	AND LOCAL TAXES.			
5				
6	(B) A CONTRACT FOR A RESILIENCE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT MAY			
7	PROVIDE THAT PAYMENT SHALL BE MADE IN BONDS.			
8				
9	(C) A BOND IS NOT SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS OF §§ 19–205 AND 19–206			
10	OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF			
11	MARYLAND.			
12				
13 14	SECTION 299.11. FINDINGS AS TO PUBLIC PURPOSE.			
15	A FINDING BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OR THE BOARD OF			
16	DIRECTORS OF THE RESILIENCE AUTHORITY AS TO THE PUBLIC PURPOSE OF AN			
17	ACTION TAKEN UNDER THIS CHAPTER, AND THE APPROPRIATENESS OF THAT			
18	ACTION TO SERVE THE PUBLIC PURPOSE, IS CONCLUSIVE IN A PROCEEDING			
19	INVOLVING THE VALIDITY OR ENFORCEABILITY OF A BOND, OR SECURITY FOR			
20	A BOND, ISSUED UNDER THIS TITLE.			
21				
22 23	SECTION 299.12. DEDICATION OF REVENUES.			
24	NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF LAW OR CHARTER, THE BOARD			
25	OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MAY DEDICATE ANY REVENUES OF THE CHARLES			
26	COUNTY GOVERNMENT FOR REPAYMENT OF BONDS AND TO SUPPORT THE			
27	OPERATIONS OR RESILIENCE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS OF THE RESILIENCE			
28	AUTHORITY.			
29	SECTION 299.13. JOINT RESOLUTION AUTHORITY.			
30				
31	IF MULTIPLE COUNTIES OR MUNICIPALITIES ESTABLISH A RESILIENCE			
32 33	AUTHORITY:			
34	(1) EACH SHALL BE CONSIDERED AN INCORPORATING LOCAL GOVERNMENT;			
35	AND			
36				

1	(2) THE COUNTIES OR MUNICIPALITIES SHALL FILE JOINTLY ARTICLES OF				
2	INCORPORATION OR ARTICLES OF AMENDMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 22–102				
3	OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF				
4	MARYLAND.				
5					
6 7	SECTION 299.14. CONSTRUCTION OF CHAPTER.				
8	NOTHING IN THIS CHAPTER MAY BE CONSTRUED TO:				
9 10					
11	(1) PROHIBIT THE CHARLES COUNTY GOVERNMENT FROM JOINING WITH				
12	MULTIPLE COUNTIES OR MUNICIPALITIES AND ESTABLISHING THROUGH JOINT				
	ACTION, A RESILIENCE AUTHORITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS CHAPTER; OR				
13 14	(2) AUTHORIZE THE RESILIENCE AUTHORITY TO LEVY A TAX.				
15					
16	SECTION 299.15. REPORTS.				
17 18	(A) ON JANUARY 1 OF EACH YEAR, IN A FORMAT DESIGNATED				
19					
20	BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, THE RESILIENCE AUTHORITY SHALL, REPORT TO THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON THE				
21	ACTIVITIES OF THE RESILIENCE AUTHORITY.				
22	ACTIVITIES OF THE RESILIENCE AUTHORITY.				
23	(B) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, ON OR				
24	BEFORE THE JANUARY 1 AFTER THE RESILIENCE AUTHORITY IS				
25	ESTABLISHED BY THE CHARLES COUNTY GOVERNMENT IN				
26	ACCORDANCE WITH THIS CHAPTER, AND ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1 OF				
27	EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, THE RESILIENCE AUTHORITY SHALL SUBMIT A				
28	REPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2–1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT				
29	ARTICLE TO:				
30	(I) THE SENATE BUDGE AND TAXATION COMMITTEE AND THE				
31	SENATE EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS				
32	COMMITTEES; AND				
33					
34	(II) THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE AND THE HOUSE				
, +	ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.				

35

(2) TI	HE REPORT REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION			
SHALL INCLUDE, AT A MINIMUM:				
(I)	A COPY OF THE REPORT REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS			
	SECTION;			
(II)	A DESCRIPTION OF THE RESILIENCE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS			
	FUNDED BY THE RESILIENCE AUTHORITY; AND			
(III)	THE SOURCES OF REVENUE FOR THE RESILIENCE INFRASTRUCTURE			
	PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY THE RESILIENCE AUTHORITY.			
SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this bill shall become effective forty-five (45)				
250	calendar days after it becomes law.			
Adop	ted this grant day of December, 2020.			
	COUNTY COMMISSIONERS			
	CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND			
	Reuben B. Collins, II Esq., President			
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	Bobby Rucci, Vice President			
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Cul (1) 1/4				
Carol DeSoto	o, Clerk to the Commissioners			
	(I) (II) (III) SECTION 2 calendar days Adop			

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