

Council Bill 44-2026 Fiscal Analysis

Introduced: June 1, 2026

Fiscal Manager: Melinda Massey

Legislative Intent:

The intent of the legislation is to ensure that the Board of Appeals has the opportunity to receive information directly from the Administrative Agency that is named as a party in an administrative appeal and to allow Board members to ask questions regarding the agency's decision.

ANALYSIS

Background:

Council Bill 44-2026 amends the Rules of Procedure of the Board of Appeals to require that, in administrative appeals brought to the Board of Appeals pursuant to [Section 2.210](#) of the Howard County Code, a representative from the Administrative Agency named as a party, appear before the Board of Appeals. The representative would be required to explain the agency's decision and answer questions from the Board.

Fiscal Impact/Budget Implications:

According to the Administration (the Department of Planning and Zoning), passage of this legislation “could have a huge impact on the department and staffing levels depending on the case and where it is in the process. If there are night Hearing Examiner (HE) or Board of Appeals (BOA) meetings where staff are present this would require comp time being accrued or potential flex time taking away their ability to do their regular duties as assigned. In addition, the daytime meetings take staff away from their regular duties. This would specifically have a disproportionate effect on the Zoning team.”

At this time, the Administration is unable to quantify the fiscal impact of overtime compensation. Accurately estimating additional personnel overtime costs is difficult because they depend on several factors, including the number of cases involved, the number of staff required to support those cases, and the classification of each staff member assigned. For reference, the estimated annual meeting runtime for Fiscal Year 2026 is 92.0 hours for the Board of Appeals and 125.0 hours for the Hearing Examiner. These meeting-hour estimates provide context for workload expectations but do not allow for a personnel projection of overtime costs

Other Notes:

n/a