

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE REPORT
2020 Legislative Session

Reference No.: CB-027-2020

Draft No.: 1

Committee: Committee of the Whole (C.O.W.)

Date: 06/11/2020

Action: FAV

REPORT:

Committee Vote: Favorable, 11-0 (In Favor: Council Members Turner, Hawkins, Anderson-Walker, Davis, Dernoga, Franklin, Glaros, Harrison, Ivey, Streeter and Taveras).

The Committee convened on June 11, 2020, to discuss this legislation, which amends the County Code regarding the dumping of bulky items on public or private property. This legislation implements authority provided by the enactment of Chapter 160 of the 2019 Laws of Maryland (HB 1155 and PG 418). Specifically, CB-27-2020 proposes the amendment of Subtitle 13 (Housing & Property Standards), Division 9 (Anti-litter & Weed Ordinance), by:

- 1) Adding a specific violation for the disposal of bulky items “on public or private property unless the property is designated by the State, a unit of the State, or a political subdivision of the State for the disposal of bulky items and the person is authorized by the proper public authority to use the property.”
- 2) Defining “Bulky Item” as “any discarded furniture, home or industrial appliance, or abandoned vehicle or part of an abandoned vehicle not designated for disposal purposes under the laws of Prince George’s County”
- 3) Providing exclusions from this definition as “small quantities of waste matter ordinarily carried on or about the person, including beverage containers and closures, packaging, wrappers, wastepaper, newspapers, magazines, and waste matter that escapes or is allowed to escape from a container, receptacle, or package.”
- 4) Establishing a violation of this provision as a misdemeanor, subject to imprisonment not exceeding 30 days or a fine not exceeding \$5,000, or both.

Joe Gill, Director of the Department of the Environment, provided details on the need for stronger penalties to deter dumping of bulky items, as well as the impact of moving these cases from the Circuit Court to the District Court. Mr. Gill also discussed collaborative efforts with the State’s Attorney’s office on successful prosecution of violators, including the establishment of community service as an option for penalties. The Office of Audits & Investigations indicated that any increased expenses associated with enforcement would likely be offset, at least in part, by the collection of fines. The Office of Law found the legislation to be in proper form. After the discussion, the Committee voted favorably on CB-27-2020 by a vote of 11-0.