



October 7, 2025

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

TO: Colette R. Gresham, Esq.  
Acting Council Administrator

Karen T. Zavakos, Esq.  
Acting Deputy Council Administrator

THRU: Lavinia Baxter *LB*  
Senior Budget and Policy Analyst

FROM: Roger G. Banegas *RGB*  
Legislative Budget and Policy Analyst

RE: Policy Analysis and Fiscal Impact Statement  
CB-088-2025 The Locally Owned and Operated Business Incentive Act

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**CB-088-2025** (*Proposed and Presented by*): Council Member Hawkins

Assigned to the Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee

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AN ACT CONCERNING THE LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED BUSINESS INCENTIVE ACT for the purpose of stimulating the growth of locally owned and operated businesses by reducing the stifling burden of fees and charges on such businesses, thus fostering economic growth in Prince George's County.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**Direct Impact:**

*Expenditures:* Negligible, if any, impact on expenditures.

*Revenues:* Modest increase in revenue likely.

**Indirect Impact:**

Website: <https://pgccouncil.us> | Wayne K. Curry Administration Bldg.  
Office: (301) 952-3431 | 1301 McCormick Drive, 3rd Floor  
FAX: (301) 780-2097 | Largo, Maryland 20774

Potentially favorable.

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### **Legislative Summary:**

CB-088-2025<sup>1</sup>, presented and sponsored by Council Member Hawkins on September 30, 2025, was referred to the Government Operations and Fiscal Policy (GOFP) Committee. This Bill is meant to increase the number and growth of locally owned and operated businesses in Prince George's County, which in turn, will be a critical component of Prince George's County's economic growth strategy and will create more generational wealth for county residents. The legislation also addresses fees and charges, which, particularly for start-up businesses, are a major impediment to the growth of locally owned and operated businesses, thus hurting the growth of Prince George's County's economy.

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### **Current Law/Background:**

Under §2-253.63<sup>2</sup> of The County Code, fees and charges are assessed by the County for any regulated activities that occur within the County's jurisdiction. Any new fees and charges are added to a comprehensive Table of Fees that was established after the enactment of CB-041-2015<sup>3</sup>, which requires the Director of the Department of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement (DPIE) to publish an annual comprehensive Table of Fees that the County Executive submits to the County Council for review, and amended through CB-034-2022<sup>4</sup>. All fees and charges are subject to a 5% technology fee the exception to this fee are the multi-family rental license fee and the single-family rental license fee. DPIE holds public informational sessions to allow for public comment whenever there is a change in the fees.

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### **Resource Personnel:**

- Jamel Franklin, Chief of Staff, Office of At-Large Council Member Hawkins
  - Lori Parris, Chief of Staff, Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement
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### **Discussion/Policy Analysis:**

Locally owned and operated businesses are based in Prince George's County with majority ownership by one or more county residents. Independent businesses employ the people, pay the taxes, and create most of the growth that keeps our economies healthy. A landmark study conducted by Civic Economics found that more than three times the dollars stay in our community

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<sup>1</sup> [CB-088-2025](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Section 2-253.63 of the Prince George's County Code](#)

<sup>3</sup> Prince George's County Council - [Reference No. CB-041-2015](#)

<sup>4</sup> Prince George's County Council - [Reference No. CB-034-2022](#)

from money spent at a locally owned business rather than a chain store<sup>5</sup>. Specifically, spending \$100 at a locally owned store puts \$45 recirculating in our local economy, whereas only \$13 of \$100 spent at a chain store stays in the local economy. Local businesses are more likely to spend their revenue on local payroll, local suppliers, local property owners, and local charities, creating an ongoing cycle of economic activity.

Fees and charges, particularly for start-up businesses, may be a major impediment to the growth of locally owned and operated businesses, thus hurting the growth of Prince George's County's economy. There are many out-of-pocket expenses when someone launches a new business. Depending on the industry, products or services, and location, startup funding needs could be as little as \$100 for an online business to as much as \$750,000 for a restaurant<sup>6</sup>.

If enacted, the proposed Bill would amend the Prince George's County Code Subtitle 2. *Administration*. Division 14C. *Fees and Charges* to add section 2-253.63(i) to lower the fees and charges assessed to a "Locally owned and Operated Business". The new language states the following:

- (i) Fees and charges pursuant to this section assessed to a Locally owned and Operated Business as defined in Section 10-335(a)(4) **shall be discounted by 50%** at the time of such assessment.

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### **Fiscal Impact:**

- *Direct Impact*

Enactment of CB-088-2025 will have an adverse fiscal impact on the County, as County fee-based revenue sources (which include business licensing, permitting, inspections, and zoning applications) will be reduced based on the number of Locally Owned and Operated Businesses. Additional expenditures may be required to verify and monitor compliance from these businesses.

- *Indirect Impact*

Enactment of CB-088-2025 may have a positive indirect fiscal impact, as it aims to lower the barriers to entry that small businesses, who are often from historically disadvantaged backgrounds, face. The proposed Bill would support the County's goal of closing racial and income wealth gaps.

- *Appropriated in the Current Fiscal Year Budget*

No.

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<sup>5</sup> [Local Business Institute - Locally-owned, independent businesses are the backbone of our local economy and the foundation of communities' unique culture.](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Bankrate - Average cost of starting a small business](#)

**Effective Date of Proposed Legislation:**

The proposed Bill shall be effective forty-five (45) calendar days after it becomes law.

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If you require additional information or have questions about this fiscal impact statement, please contact me by phone or email.