

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**COMMITTEE REPORT**  
**2025 Legislative Session**

Reference No. CR-054-2025

Draft No. 2

Committee: Health, Human Services, and Public Safety

Date: June 5, 2025,

Action: FAV (A)

**REPORT:**

Committee Vote: Favorable with Amendments 5-0 (In favor Council Members Blegay, Fisher, Olson, Oriadha, and Watson)

The Health, Human Services, and Public Safety Committee met on June 5, 2025, to consider CR-054-2025.

Staff provided an overview of the resolution, stating that it directs the Prince George's County Health Department to conduct a study on the public health impacts associated with the balanced distribution of fast-food restaurants, liquor stores, and tobacco retailers throughout the county's neighborhoods.

The sponsor, Council Vice Chair Oriadha, thanked Council Member Harrison for his long-standing work on health initiatives and his collaboration on CR-054-2025 Draft 2. She acknowledged their joint effort to combine two related bills into a unified resolution focused on public health, highlighting Council Member Harrison's previous work on healthy meals and the Health Impact Atlas. She expressed appreciation for his partnership in advancing legislation that benefits county residents.

Council Member Harrison expressed strong support for CR-054-2025 Draft 2, highlighting the need to address health disparities and systemic inequities in Prince George's County. He emphasized that the resolution would require a health impact study as part of the zoning process to help limit the oversaturation of unhealthy businesses like fast food outlets. Citing troubling statistics on fast food saturation, infant mortality, cardiovascular emergencies, and poor access to preventative care, he highlighted the link between zoning decisions and social determinants of health. Council Member Harrison argued that the county must act now to improve public health outcomes and retain local investment in healthier, more equitable communities.

Council Member Harrison concluded by urging Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning to collaborate with the Health Department and include qualified health experts within their division

in reviewing zoning applications, aligning with existing plans, i.e., Plan 2035, Neighborhood Stabilization Plans, Master Plans, and Sector Plans.

Council Member Oriadha echoed Council Member Harrison's remarks, affirming the urgency and justification for advancing CR-054-2025 Draft 2. She emphasized the importance of collaborating with the Health Department and Planning staff to proactively address business over-saturation. She also stressed the need for industries contributing to public health issues to help fund mitigation efforts, especially as federal support for local health departments may decline. She expressed hope that the study would provide a foundation for future comprehensive legislation.

Committee Chair Blegay referenced her prior introduction of the Healthy Restaurants Bill, which had strong Council support, and reiterated the goal of incentivizing healthy food options in the community.

Dr. Matthew Levy, Health Officer, expressed strong support for the resolution, thanking Council Members for their leadership. He shared plans to integrate the Health Atlas into a new state-mandated health and wellness workgroup launching in June. Dr. Levy emphasized a shared commitment to ensuring all residents have the opportunity to live healthy lives at every age and stage, and appreciated the merging of the two bills for greater efficiency and impact.

Ms. Lakeisha Hull, Planning Director, voiced strong support for CR-054-2025 Draft 2, highlighting its alignment with Plan 2035, the County's Adopted General Plan. She praised the integration of public health and land use planning, an area that has not received focused attention, and emphasized the importance of performance measures tied to creating healthy, vibrant communities. Ms. Hull noted specific updates in the resolution, including focus areas such as transportation efficiency, land use inequities, auto-oriented uses, and partnerships. She also mentioned the resolution's attention to urban agriculture and access to fresh food, and shared her department's commitment to advancing this work in FY 26.

Council Member Fisher asked how the legislation would help attract healthier food options in mixed-market areas like her district. Planning Director Hull shared that health data could guide retailers. For example, in Los Angeles, where there was a proliferation of 7-Elevens, and those areas did not have quality food stores, regional directors were engaged using health data to introduce fresh food options.

Council Member Oriadha shared that she is developing incentive-based legislation for transit-oriented development that would provide automatic incentives for the kinds of businesses communities want to attract.

Sakinda Skinner, Council Liaison, Acting County Executive's Office, expressed that the Acting County Executive, Tara Jackson, strongly supports this initiative and appreciates the continued partnership. She noted that Planning Director Hull and Health Officer Dr. Levy will continue

collaborating with the resolution sponsors and emphasized that the legislation aligns with the work of the Board of Health.

Dinora Hernandez, Office of Law, expressed that the resolution is in proper legislative form and has no legal impediments to its adoption.

Council Vice Chair Oriadha made a motion to approve CR-054-2025 Draft 2, which was seconded by Council Member Fisher. The motion passed 5-0.

Chair Blegay emphasized that while the study is important, long-term solutions will require financial incentives to attract healthier food options and shift the current market dynamics.

After discussion, the Health, Human Services, and Public Safety Committee voted favorably, 5-0, on CR-054-2025 Draft 2.