

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2025 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-088-2025

Proposed by Council Member Oriadha

Introduced by Council Members Oriadha, Watson, Blegay, Adams-Stafford, Dernoga,
Ivey, Fisher and Burroughs

Co-Sponsors Council Member Hawkins

Date of Introduction September 9, 2025

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 Improving Prince George’s County’s Literacy

3 For the purpose of establishing the Prince George’s County Literacy Commission (“the
4 Commission”) to develop strategic initiatives to assess, address, and improve literacy rates
5 among residents in Prince George’s County.

6 WHEREAS, literacy is essential for individual empowerment, educational attainment,
7 economic growth, and overall community development; and

8 WHEREAS, according to the National Center for Education Statistics, in 2023, twenty-
9 eight percent (28%) of U.S. adults scored at or below Level One (1) in literacy, indicating a
10 significant portion of the population struggles with basic reading tasks; and

11 WHEREAS, in 2024, Maryland's average reading score for fourth-grade students was only
12 thirty-four percent (34%) performing at or above the National Assessment of Educational
13 Progress’ Proficient level, highlighting ongoing challenges in early literacy; and

14 WHEREAS, Prince George’s County Public Schools reported that in the 2023–24 academic
15 year, English Language Arts proficiency across all tested students ranged from twenty-seven
16 percent (27%) to sixty-nine percent (69%), indicating significant disparities in literacy
17 achievement within the County; and

18 WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey data,
19 approximately thirteen percent (13%) of Prince George’s County residents aged twenty-five (25)
20 and older did not attain a high school diploma, indicating a significant portion of the adult
21 population possibly facing challenges related to low literacy skills; and

1 WHEREAS, low literacy levels among adults contribute significantly to unemployment and
2 underemployment, with the U.S. Department of Labor indicating that adults with lower literacy
3 levels earn approximately thirty percent (30%) less than their more literate peers, negatively
4 affecting economic stability within Prince George’s County communities; and

5 WHEREAS, literacy issues disproportionately impact minority and economically
6 disadvantaged populations within Prince George’s County, exacerbating existing inequities and
7 limiting opportunities for upward socioeconomic mobility; and

8 WHEREAS, the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System has identified a
9 growing demand for adult literacy resources, including English as a Second Language (ESL), to
10 support the County’s diverse and multilingual population; and

11 WHEREAS, The Prince George’s County Workforce Development Board recognizes that
12 low adult literacy levels hinder employment opportunities and economic growth, emphasizing
13 the importance of adult education and literacy initiatives in workforce development strategies;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, effective literacy enhancement requires coordinated strategies among schools,
16 libraries, community organizations, government agencies, and educational institutions; and

17 WHEREAS, the County Council recognizes the importance of addressing literacy
18 disparities to improve community resilience, educational success, and economic
19 competitiveness;

20 WHEREAS, Section 506 of the Prince George’s County Charter authorizes the County
21 Council to appoint temporary advisory boards and commissions to assist in the consideration of
22 county policies and programs; and

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
24 County, Maryland, that the Prince George’s County Literacy Commission is hereby established
25 to develop and implement strategies aimed at improving literacy across Prince George’s County:

26 (a) The Commission shall conduct comprehensive assessments to identify literacy gaps
27 among different age groups and communities within Prince George’s County.

28 (b) The Commission shall design and implement programs tailored to the specific needs of
29 adults and students, leveraging existing resources and introducing innovative approaches.

30 (c) The Commission shall engage with community members, organizations, and
31 institutions

1 to promote literacy and encourage participation in County programs.

2 (d) The Commission shall advise the Prince George's County Board of Education and
3 County Council on policies and funding allocations that promote the Commission's literacy
4 initiatives.

5 (e) The Commission shall be comprised of the following members:

6 (1) Two representatives from Prince George's County Public Schools, appointed by
7 the Superintendent;

8 (2) One representative from Bowie State University, or their designee;

9 (3) One representative from the University of Maryland, or their designee;

10 (4) One representative from the Prince George's County Memorial Library System,
11 or their designee;

12 (5) One representative from the Prince George's County State Delegation, or their
13 designee;

14 (6) One representative from Employ Prince George's, or their designee;

15 (7) One representative from Prince George's Community College, or their designee;

16 (8) Three representatives from literacy-focused nonprofit organizations, appointed by
17 the Chair of the County Council;

18 (9) One faith-based community leader, appointed by the Chair of the County Council;

19 (10) One representative from a Parent Teacher Association within the County,
20 appointed by the Chair of the County Council;

21 (11) One representative from a civic association, appointed by the Chair of the County
22 Council;

23 (12) One representative of the Prince George's County Board of Education or
24 designee; and

25 (13) One representative of the County Council.

26 (14) One representative from the dyslexia community.

27 (15) One representative from a literacy-focused non-profit working on Prekindergarten
28 programs.

29 (f) The Chair of the Commission shall be appointed by the consent of the Chair of
30 the County Council.

31 (g) All representatives or designees must report to the County Council within sixty (60)

1 days of the adoption of this resolution, specifying who the representative shall be. The Chair of
2 the County Council shall also make all required appointments within sixty (60) days.

3 (h) The Commission shall commence its duties within ninety (90) days of the adoption of
4 this resolution.

5 (i) No member will receive compensation, but may receive reimbursement for expenses
6 under Standard State Travel regulations as provided by the County Budget.

7 (j) The Legislative Branch shall provide staff and technical support to the Commission.

8 (k) The Commission shall submit its preliminary strategic recommendations, initiatives,
9 and findings to the County Council no later than March 27, 2026. The Commission shall then
10 provide a final recommendation, initiative, and plan focused on improving literacy rates within
11 the County by June 2, 2026.

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission’s duties shall have an initial term
13 expiring June 3, 2026. If the County Council, through a majority vote, finds the commission’s
14 continued duty advantageous to the County, it may be reauthorized for subsequent years by
15 County Resolution.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be sent by the Clerk of the
17 Council to the enumerated County departments, County delegations, institutions, and appointed
18 organizations or individuals.

Adopted this 4th day of November, 2025.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Edward P. Burroughs III
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council